EIGHT ESSENTIAL ARTICULATORS give definite shape to each separate speech sound as the AIR passes out through the mouth or through the nose.

**Four Movable Articulators**
- Tongue
- Lips — /i/: Slightly spread “Lee”
  /ʌ/: relaxed “cup”
  /u/: rounded “who”
- Lower Jaw
- Soft Palate*

**Four Immovable Articulators**
- Teeth
- Gum Ridge
- Hard Palate
- Throat or Glottis

* The Soft Palate closes the passageway between the mouth and the nose. In spoken English it is relaxed and lowered (6a) for “m,” “n” and “ng,” allowing the air to be directed through the nose. It is raised and closed (6b) for ALL other sounds in English, so that the air is directed through the mouth.