

# Understanding the Difference

## Alphabet Letters vs Consonant and Vowel Phonemes

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### ALPHABET LETTERS

Alphabet letters refer to the individual characters that make up a written language.

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### CONSONANT PHONEMES

Consonant phonemes are produced with partial mouth closure and airflow obstruction by the lips, teeth and tongue.

Consonant phonemes can be voiced or unvoiced.

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### VOWEL PHONEMES

Vowel phonemes are the sounds produced by the vocal cords without any obstruction in the mouth or throat.

Vowel phonemes are always voiced.

**Letters of the alphabet represent written characters, while phonemes represent sounds.**