

What Do You Know about Voice Production?

Let's find out. Please select one answer for each question. We'll discuss the answers later.

1. Voice is produced when air goes by the vocal folds, causing them to:
 - Shrink
 - Vibrate
 - Sweat
 - Open widely
2. The main reason dogs can't talk like people is:
 - They have a canine accent
 - They could if somebody were patient enough to do the training
 - Their brains aren't sophisticated enough, talking is complicated
 - They can't get enough air sucked into their lungs.
3. Which of the following statements is false?
 - A rubber band stretched tightly will make a high sound when plucked
 - Interestingly, the strings inside a piano create either high or low notes, although they are the same size
 - Different musical pitches in horns are made by pressing keys that open or close holes, making the air column inside the tube longer or shorter.
 - Musical sounds are created by vibrations, either from the air (like a flute) or strings (like a guitar)
4. Whispering is the same as talking except that when we whisper, air from the lungs isn't powerful enough to start the vocal folds vibrating so we just hold them close together and don't let them work.
 - True
 - False
5. The larynx (voice box) is a complicated organ made up of bone, cartilages, muscle, and moist skin with ligaments holding it together.
 - True
 - False
6. When singing falsetto, we use a different set of vocal folds
 - True
 - False
7. The main difference between singing and speaking is:
 - We use a different set of vocal folds for singing than we do for talking
 - We hold the vowel sounds longer and at a specific pitch in singing, as compared to speaking
 - We use air from the lungs for speaking, but use air from the diaphragm for singing

- We use resonance (from the air spaces in the head) for singing, but not for speaking.
8. Articulators shape voice into speech. Which of the following is NOT an articulator
- The soft palate
 - The lower lip
 - The tongue
 - The lungs
9. Which brief explanation most accurately describes how humans make voice?
form
- Air from the stomach is gently "belched" up into the mouth where we speech or song, and sounds are let loose at the lips.
 - Air from the lungs is chopped and shaped by the vocal folds inside the larynx, then further shaped by our articulators and released through the mouth as sound waves.
 - Air from the lungs freely floats through the voice box, where it causes many rope-like vocal cords to twist and shake; only the highest-pitched words are heard as they are freed into the surrounding air
 - Vibrating sound molecules begin at the diaphragm, travel up the esophagus and are simply released when we open the throat and mouth
10. Burping often creates a sound because air from the stomach coming up to the mouth passes by the vocal folds and makes them vibrate (just as in speaking).
- True
 - False
11. Women have longer vocal folds than men
- True
 - False
12. When should you warm up before singing?
- If you're singing a solo
 - When you have cold
 - First day back in choir after a vacation
 - Almost anytime you're about to sing
13. Natural range is determined by:
- The needs of the choir director or group
 - The size of the person
 - The length and thickness of the vocal folds
 - The part you wish you could sing
14. Gospel singing is inherently bad for the vocal folds
- True
 - False
15. Humans are the only species that have acquired speech as a form of communication
- True
 - False