

The kinds of sounds which make up human speech are called **vowels** and **consonants**.

What are vowels and consonants?

Vowels are those sounds where the air from the lungs is not interrupted when it passes through the mouth and throat (for example by the tongue). In English writing, vowels are traditionally represented by the letters **a, e, i, o** and **u**. All other sounds, for example those represented by letters such as **p, th, m, k** and **s**, are **consonants**.