

3 Speech Organs

p. 13

(2)

2. The Palate

- **The palate** forms the roof of the mouth and separates the mouth cavity from the nasal cavity.

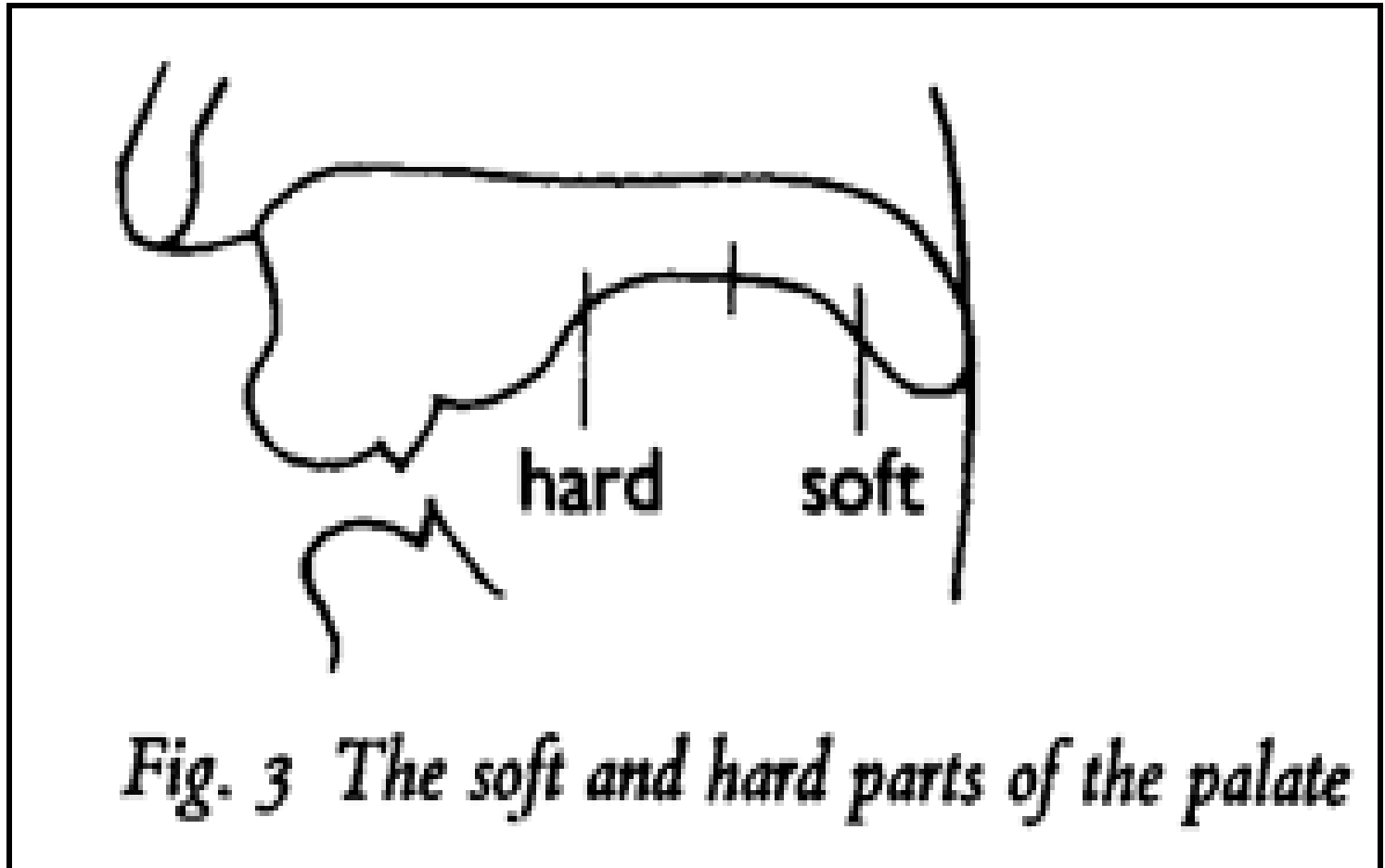
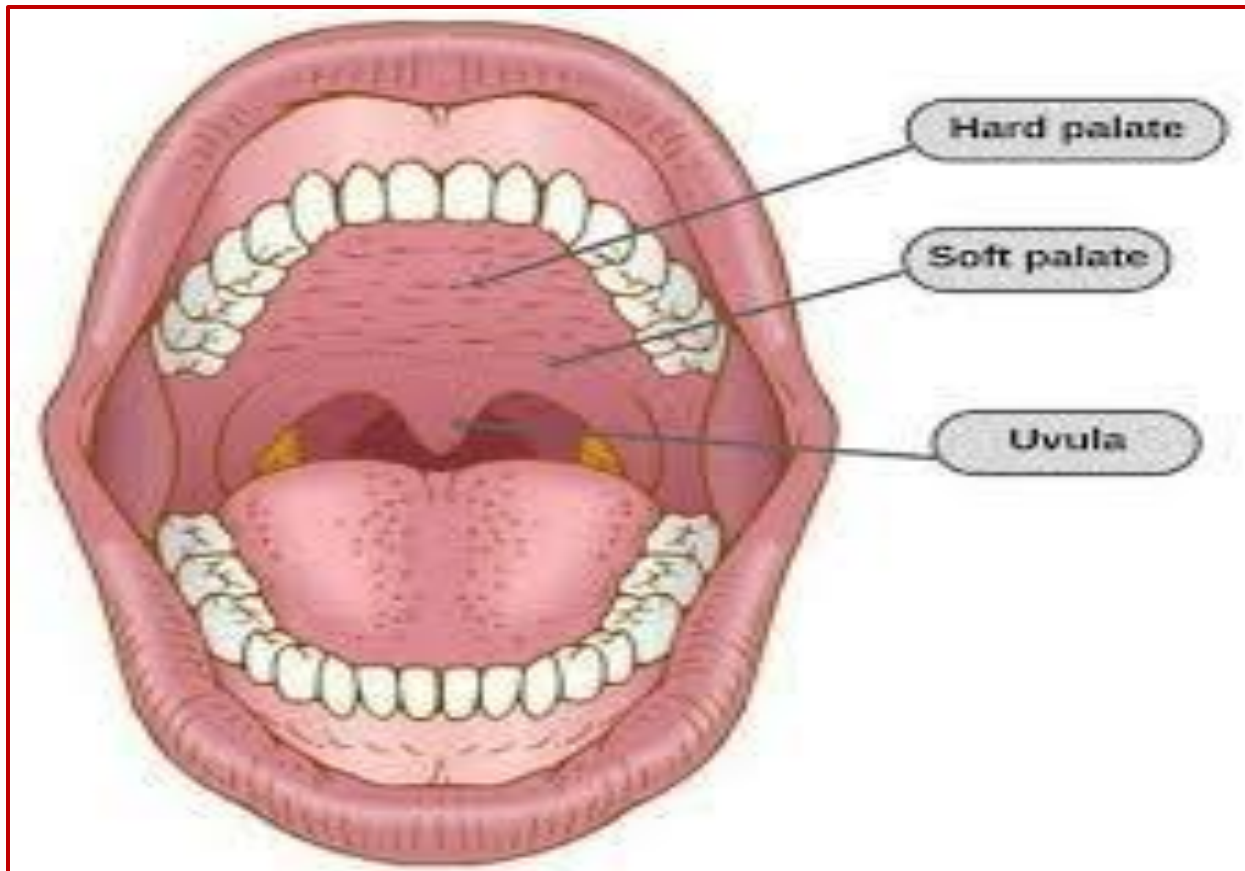


Fig. 3 The soft and hard parts of the palate

2. The Palate

- **The soft palate** curving down towards the tongue and becoming narrower as it ends in a point called *the uvula* /ju:vjula/.



2. The Palate

- **The soft palate can move:**
- **It can be raised so that it makes a firm contact with the back wall of the pharynx.**
- This stops the breath from going up into the nasal cavity and forces it to go into the mouth only.
- **When relaxing, the soft palate will come down again into its lowered position.**

2. The Palate

- In this lowered position, the soft palate allows the breath to pass behind itself and up into the nasal cavity and out through the nose.
- This is the normal position when not speaking but breathing through the nose, with the mouth closed.
- /m, n, ŋ/

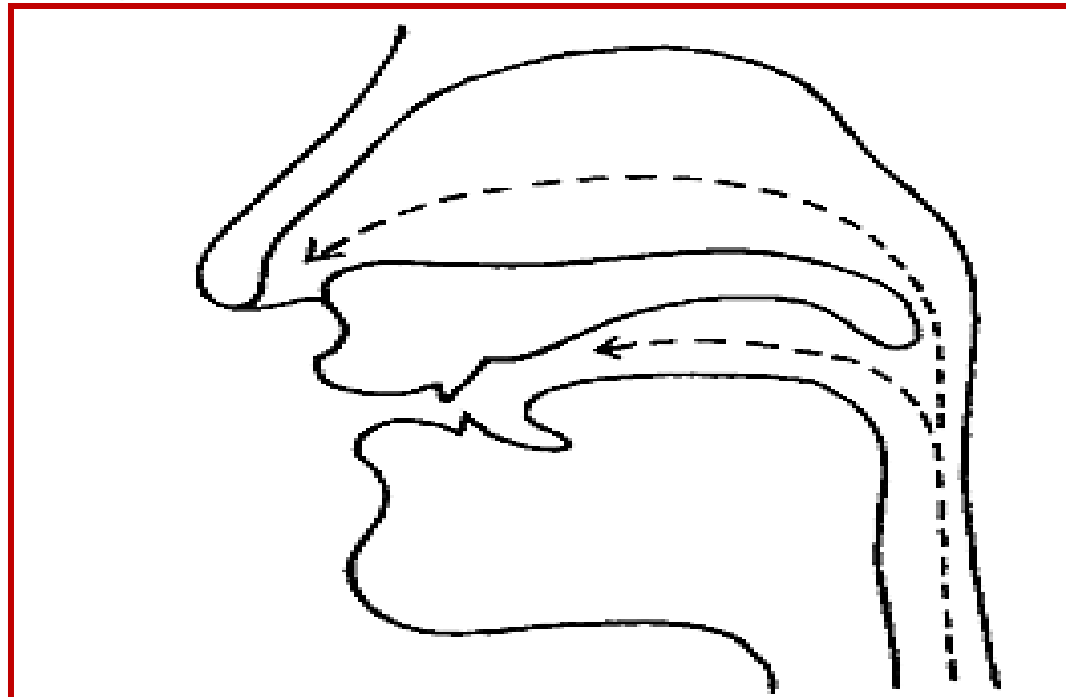


Fig. 4 The soft palate lowered

2. The Palate

- It is divided into *the alveolar ridge* and *the hard palate*.
- **The alveolar ridge** is that part of the gums immediately behind the upper front teeth.
- **The hard palate** is the highest part of the palate, between the alveolar ridge and the beginning of the soft palate.
- /t, d, n, l, r, s, z, ʃ, ʒ, tʃ, dʒ/ are made with the tongue touching or close to the alveolar ridge.

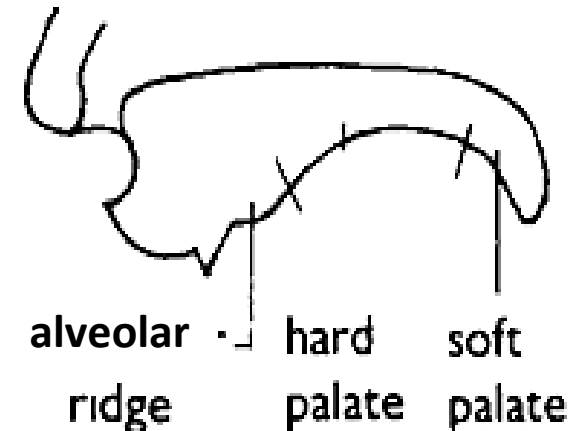


Fig. 5 The parts of the palate

THANKS FOR LISTENING