How Does the Human Body Produce Voice and Speech?

Speech is produced by several parts of the body working together to shape the sounds of the voice.

Mouth and Nose

Coordinated movements mainly by the tongue and lips and in the nasal passages that produce recognizable sounds called speech.

O Lungs

Voice is generated by airflow from the lungs.

When the air from the lungs blows through the vocal folds at a high speed, the vocal folds vibrate.

The vibrations lead to sounds we call voice. These sounds are shaped to form speech.

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2 Larynx

When it's time to speak, the air pressure below the larynx increases until it blows the vocal folds apart.



National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/voice-video

O Vocal Folds

The pressure forces the air through the vocal folds, creating suction as we exhale.



A top-view of open and closed vocal folds

To produce speech, the vocal folds must vibrate normally as air travels through them from the lungs and reaches the mouth and nose.