# 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.