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Learning Outcomes

- Be aware of the main acoustic cues that allow us to distinguish different **approximant** sounds

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Acoustic cues - consonants

- Fricatives e.g. /s/, /f/, /ʃ/ and the voiced equivalents /z/, /v/, /ʒ/
- Plosives e.g. /p/, /t/, /k/ and /b/, /d/, /g/
- Affricates (combination of fricative and plosive) e.g. /tʃ/ as in “church” or /dʒ/ as in “jar”
- Nasals e.g. /m/, /n/ and /ŋ/ as in “ring”
- Approximants e.g. /w/, /j/, /y/ and /l/**
- For each different “manner” will look at the different place and voicing contrasts

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Acoustics of consonant contrasts - approximants

- Main acoustic cue for approximants are the changes in formant frequency as production moves from the consonant into the following vowel

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Acoustics of consonant contrasts - approximants

/wɑ:/ /jɑ:/ /lɑ:/ /ɹɑ:/

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/ge/ - /je/ - /ie/

(distinction is duration and speed of formant transition)

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