

Our Voice



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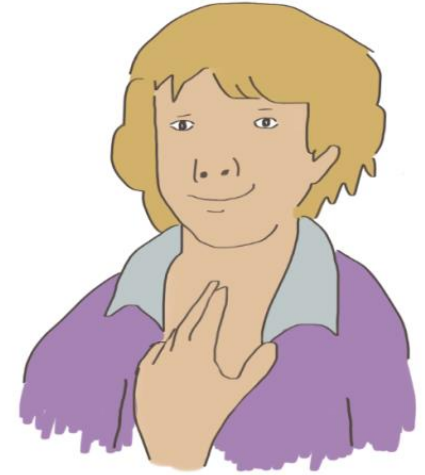
Lilika



We use our voice all the time. When we speak or sing, our vocal chords vibrate several times in a second, just like the strings of a guitar. The faster they vibrate, the higher the tones they produce. With low notes they vibrate more slowly.

What to do...

- Put one or two fingers on your neck. You'll feel a bump on your neck, it's your larynx. And just below it there is a small hollow. Gently put your fingers there.
- Hum, buzz or squeak. Where your neck moves a little, that is where your sound is created. Do you feel it?
- Put your ear on your parent's/sibling's/friend's chest or back. Ask them to speak or hum now - and their chest will also vibrate. How does that sound? Can you make out what they are saying?



Our voice helps make a sound, and to do that we need air. When we inhale using our nose, the air enters our lungs through the windpipe. Our vocal chords are located at the upper end of the windpipe. When we exhale, the air causes the vocal chords to vibrate. This produces a buzzing sound that is still quiet. You can hear it, but if you want to speak or sing correctly, you have to form the words with your mouth, tongue and lips. Your whole head and chest will vibrate a little when you use your voice.

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