

Voiced velar lateral approximant

The **voiced velar lateral approximant** is a type of consonantal sound, used as a distinct consonant in a very small number^[1] of spoken languages in the world. The symbol in the International Phonetic Alphabet that represents this sound is ⟨L⟩ (since 1989) and the equivalent X-SAMPA symbol is L\.

The velar laterals of the world often involve a prestopped realization [ḡL].^[2]

Contents
Features
Occurrence
See also
Notes
References
External links

Features

Features of the voiced velar lateral approximant:

- Its manner of articulation is approximant, which means it is produced by narrowing the vocal tract at the place of articulation, but not enough to produce a turbulent airstream.
- Its place of articulation is velar, which means it is articulated with the back of the tongue (the dorsum) at the soft palate.
- Its phonation is voiced, which means the vocal cords vibrate during the articulation.
- It is an oral consonant, which means air is allowed to escape through the mouth only.
- It is a lateral consonant, which means it is produced by directing the airstream over the sides of the tongue, rather than down the middle.
- The airstream mechanism is pulmonic, which means it is articulated by pushing air solely with the lungs and diaphragm, as in most sounds.

The velar lateral [L] involves no contact of the tip of the tongue with the roof of the mouth: just like for the velar stop [g], the only contact takes place between the back of the tongue and the velum. This contrasts with the velarized alveolar lateral approximant [ɭ] – also known as the dark *l* in English *feel* [fiːɭ] – for which the apex touches the alveolar ridge.^[3]

Voiced velar lateral approximant

L

IPA Number	158
Encoding	
Entity (decimal)	ʟ
Unicode (hex)	U+029F
X-SAMPA	L\
Braille	<div>⠠⠇</div>

Image

L

Audio sample

source • help

Occurrence

Language		Word	IPA	Meaning	Notes
English	Southern US ^[4]	<i>middle</i> , <i>full</i>	[ˈmɪdɫ], [ˈfɫː]	'middle', 'full'	May occur before or after a <u>velar consonant</u> , as in <i>milk</i> and <i>cycle</i> , when assimilating /ʊ/, as in <i>wolf</i> , or before <u>labial consonants</u> , as in <i>help</i> . See <u>English phonology</u>
Hiw ^[5]		<i>řevřov</i>	[g̊ɫəβg̊ɫɔβ]	'evening'	Realized as <u>prestopped</u> [g̊ɫ].
Korean		달구지 / <i>dalguji</i>	[tɛɫɡud͡ʑi]	'cart'	Allophone of final consonant [ɺ] (ㄹ) before <u>velar consonants</u> . See <u>Korean phonology</u> .
Melpa ^[6]		<i>paʔa</i>	[paɫa]	'fence'	Realized as <u>prestopped</u> [g̊ɫ].
Mid-Wahgi ^[7]		<i>aglagle</i>	[aɫaɫe]	'dizzy'	Realized as <u>prestopped</u> [g̊ɫ].

See also

- Voiceless velar lateral approximant, [ɺ]
- Velarized alveolar lateral approximant, [ɺ̠]
- Voiceless alveolar lateral fricative, [ɺ̥]
- Velar lateral tap, [ɺ̟]
- Voiced velar lateral fricative, [ɺ̥]
- Voiceless velar lateral fricative, [ɺ̥̊]
- Index of phonetics articles

Notes

- ↑ François (2010:422–426)
- ↑ François (2010:425)
- ↑ François (2010:423)
- ↑ Wells (1982), p. 551.
- ↑ François (2010:419)
- ↑ Ladefoged (2005:169)
- ↑ Roca & Johnson (1999:73)

References

- François, Alexandre (2010), "Phonotactics and the prestopped velar lateral of Hiw: resolving the ambiguity of a complex segment" (http://alex.francois.online.fr/data/AlexFrancois_Hiw-lateral_Phonology_published.pdf) (PDF), *Phonology*, **27** (3): 393–434, doi:10.1017/s0952675710000205 (<https://doi.org/10.1017%2Fs0952675710000205>)
- Ladefoged, Peter (2005), *Vowels and Consonants* (2nd ed.), Blackwell
- Roca, Iggy; Johnson, Wyn (1999), *A Course in Phonology*, Blackwell Publishing
- Wells, John C. (1982). *Accents of English*. Volume 3: Beyond the British Isles (pp. i–xx, 467–674). Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0-52128541-0.

External links

- List of languages with [L] (https://phoible.org/parameters?sSearch_0=%CA%9F) on PHOIBLE
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