

CONSONANTS

The first group of letters on the chart represents **consonant** sounds. Students need to understand that when we say a consonant sound, the air coming through our mouth or nose is slowed down or blocked by our teeth, lips, or tongue. Consonants can also be produced with voice or without voice. Voiced consonants are b, d, g, j, l, m, n, qu, r, v, w, y, z; unvoiced consonants are c, f, h, k, p, s, t, x. For a full explanation of voiced and unvoiced sounds, please see [Semester Resources: Phonemic Awareness Practice on page 26](#). In order for you to have a conversation with your students about consonant sounds, we have given you some examples below that illustrate what you need to communicate about how the sounds are formed: