

## Tap og flap

”FLAP and TAP are dynamic articulations in which there is a very brief occlusion in the vocal tract. The terms are sometimes used synonymously, but it is possible to distinguish two kinds of action: in a flap, one articulator strikes another in passing, not so much to create a brief closure but more as the incidental effect of the articulatory gesture; in a tap, there is a single deliberate movement to create a closure, tantamount to a very short stop.

The most common flaps are ones in which the tongue strikes the alveolar ridge in passing. Many speakers of English use a flapped *r* in words such as *three* and *throw*, where the tip of the tongue strikes the alveolar ridge on its way from the dental position to a more retracted position for the following vowel. Some languages, including Hindi and the Central Australian language Warlpiri, have a flapped *r* articulated somewhat differently: the tongue tip may be curled back towards the palate and may then strike the posterior part of the alveolar ridge as it moves down towards its neutral or rest position. [...] The most commonly cited instance of a tap is from some varieties of English: some speakers, especially Americans but also younger Australians, pronounce the medial [t] in words such as *better* and *matter* as a tap. [...].”

John Clark & Colin Yallop, *An introduction to phonetics and phonology* (second edition),  
Oxford / Cambridge (Massachusetts) 1995, s. 48-49