Phonological Features

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General constriction degree

[Sonorant]   having a wide constriction, smooth airflow. All vowels, glides, liquids, and nasals are +Sonorant. Opposite of [Obstruent].

[Consonantal]   All vowels are -Consonantal. However contrary to your intuitions, glides and glottals are also -Consonantal. The rest of the consonants are +Consonantal.

[High]   A low F1 produced by a fairly narrow vocalic constriction (opposite of [low])

[Continuant]   The primary function of this feature is to distinguish fricatives, [Continuant], from other obstruents (stops and affricates). All sonorants except for nasals are non-continuants (and don't worry about nasals).

Place of constriction or constriction maker

[labial]   involving the lips
[coronal]   involving the tongue tip or blade
[dorsal]   involving the tongue body rear
[nasal]   lowering of the velum
[back]   small distance between F1 and F2 (opposite of [front]

Odds and ends

[Voice]   State of the glottis (vocal folds vibrating). All sonorants are
             voiced in English except that in some dialects there is a voiceless
             [w] (transcribed as an upside down [w]). All obstruents come
             in voiced/voiceless pairs except for [h] and [ʔ] which are bother
             voiceless.

[Aspirated] having positive VOT

[Syllabic]   The intuition of +Syllabic is that the sound can occur as syllable
             nucleus. Vowels are always +Syllabic. Liquids and nasal CAN
             be either + or - Syllabic. When they are syllable nuclei (huddle,
             button) they are +Syllabic.

[strident]   high amplitude frication (sometimes [sibilant])

A dissimilatory MSC

[examples in IPA]

Good	Bad
snɪp	
	snɪm snam smʌŋ snɪŋ
spat	
skat	

A dissimilatory MSC

[examples in IPA]

Good	Bad
snɪp	
	snɪm snam smʌŋ snɪŋ
	Two nasals
spat	
skat	

A dissimilatory MSC

[examples in IPA]

Good	Bad
snɪp	
	snɪm snam smʌŋ snɪŋ
spat	
	spab smæf sfif
skat	

A dissimilatory MSC

[examples in IPA]

Good	Bad
snɪp	
	snɪm snam smʌŋ snɪŋ
spat	
	spab smæf sfif
	Two labials
skat	

A dissimilatory MSC

[examples in IPA]

Good	Bad
snɪp	
	snɪm snam smʌŋ snɪŋ
spat	
	spab smæf sfif
skat	
	skak skɪg skɔŋ

A dissimilatory MSC

[examples in IPA]

Good	Bad
snɪp	snɪm snam smʌŋ snɪŋ
spat	spab smæf sfif
skat	skak skɪg skɔŋ
	Two velars

Generalization?

- What is the generalization governing the non-occurring items on the previous slide?
- Note that it's NOT about needing nonidentical consonants: smæf snɪm
- Exceptions: *skunk, spoof, spiffy, spam*