

# My Health Stories

## My Mouth Exam





I went to the Speech Pathologist. She examined my mouth.

Let me tell you about it.



Hi. I am here for a speech exam. I think I need help saying my sounds.


Welcome. You are in the right place. I am Ms. Cook.





First, I will check your mouth. You will move parts of your mouth and make sounds. Let's start.

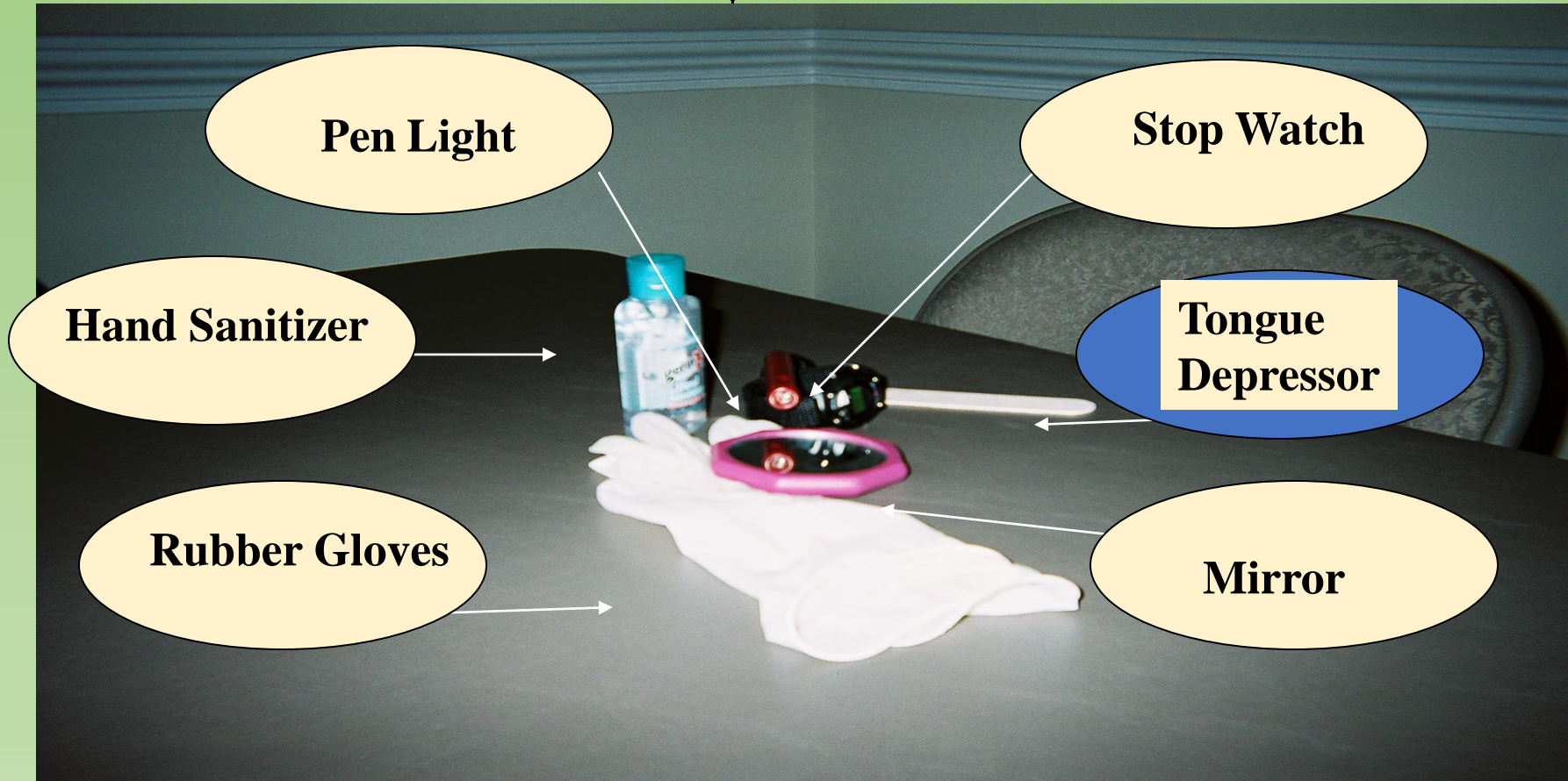


A photograph of two women sitting at a dark wooden table in a home setting. The woman on the left, wearing a denim jacket, is looking towards the woman on the right. The woman on the right, wearing a light blue shirt, is gesturing with her hands while speaking. On the table are various items including a clear plastic container, white gloves, a small bottle, and a blue packet. In the background, there is a white shelf with decorative items and a dark couch.


I have never had my  
mouth examined.  
Will it hurt?

No, it will not hurt.  
Let me show you what I  
will use in this exam.

# Objects








Please open your  
mouth really wide.  
I need to see inside.

I am looking to see  
if your mouth is healthy.  
I am looking for parts  
that are not pink or are dark.







When I don't see the right color I may think that there is paralysis. Or maybe cancer. Or an opening in your mouth.

This is so interesting.



What else are you looking for?

I am looking at the tonsils. You can have problems saying your sounds if they are too large.






I also checked your teeth.  
When teeth are missing you can also  
have problems saying your sounds.





A photograph of two women sitting at a dark table in a home setting. The woman on the left, wearing a denim jacket, is looking towards the woman on the right. The woman on the right, wearing a light blue shirt, is pointing her right index finger towards the first woman. On the table are some papers and a plastic bag. In the background, there is a white fireplace mantel with various items on it, and a doorway leading to another room. The entire image is framed by a green border.


Now I want to see how well you can move your mouth parts.

Open your mouth.  
Close your mouth.

Pucker your lips.

Move your lips from side to side.





Are we finished yet?  
It am a little embarrassed.

Just two more things.  
Okay?

Okay.

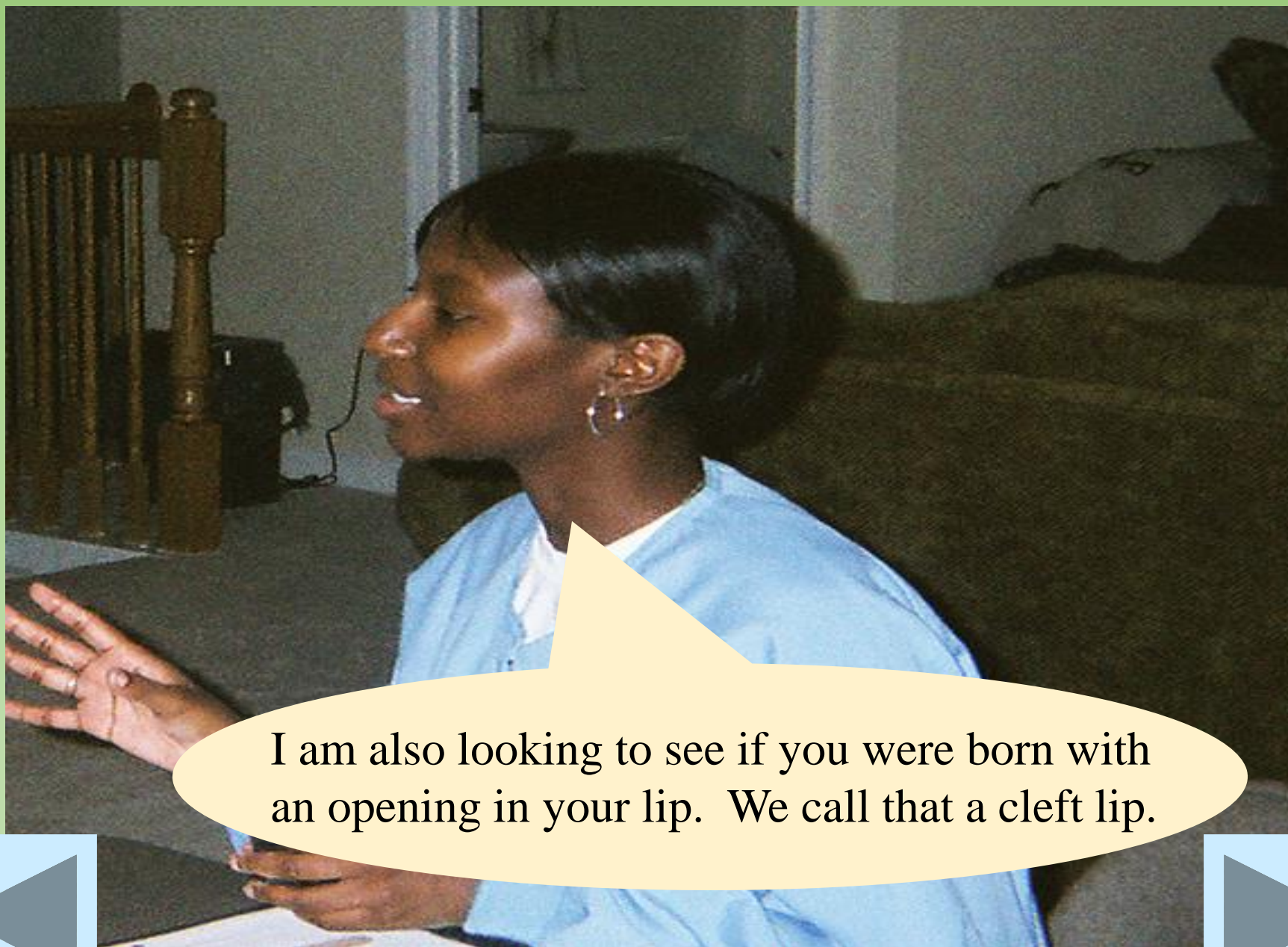


Now I am seeing if both sides  
of your face are the same.

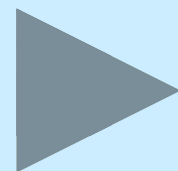
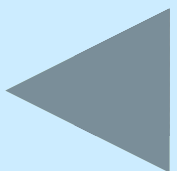
And now, I am looking at how  
you breath.







I am also looking to see if you were born with an opening in your lip. We call that a cleft lip.







Now we are ready for the final step.




Please say ta-ta as fast as you can.

ta-ta-ta-ta-ta

I am seeing how fast you can move your mouth.





A photograph of two Black women sitting at a dark wooden table in a home setting. The woman on the left, wearing a blue denim jacket, is looking towards the woman on the right. The woman on the right, wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt, is looking down at a small object in her hands. On the table are various items including a white paper, a pink object, a clear plastic bag, a small blue bottle, and a blue packet. In the background, there is a white fireplace mantel with a ceramic pot and some other items, and a wooden staircase railing. Three yellow speech bubbles with black text are overlaid on the image. The first bubble is at the top left, the second is below it, and the third is to the right of the second one.

Now, I need you to say pa-pa-pa  
as fast as you can.

pa-pa-pa-pa-pa

Good. This helps me see if  
your tongue or lips are  
weak.



Wow, we did a lot of things.  
How did I do?

From my exam I can say that  
your mouth parts and movements are  
fine.





They do not cause you to have problems saying your sounds.

That is great news!





So, what is next?

We are going to test how you say your sounds. We call that an articulation test.





It was nice meeting you  
Ms. Cook. Thank you for  
your tests.

Thank you for coming.  
We will start therapy next  
week.





It was so easy. She showed me what to do. She also explained so much.

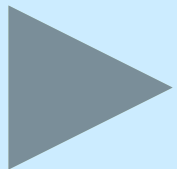
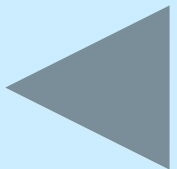
After the exam we had other tests. I started therapy and she helped me speak better.





# Produced by Project HealthStories at Howard U.

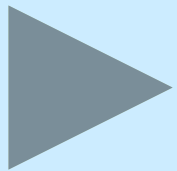
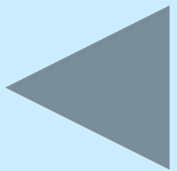
- Adrienne Larke, Graduate Student
- Kendra Shuler Graduate Student
- Silvia Martinez, Ed. D., CCC-S
  - Principal Investigator
- Katrina Felder, Photographer





# Talent

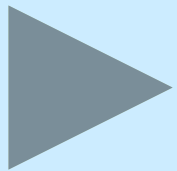
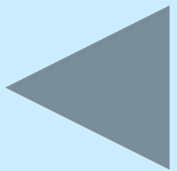
- Adrienne Larke, Graduate Student
- Kendra Shuler Graduate Student





# Collaborators

- Janice Trent, M. Ed., CCC-A
  - Howard University Speech and Hearing Clinic
- Margarita Bautista-Vigas
  - Scottish Rite Child Language Development Center



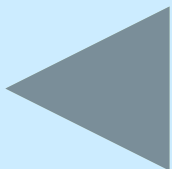


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