

Syllabic /l/ occurs after a consonant, and the way that the syllabic is produced depends much on the preceding consonant. If the preceding consonant is an ALVEOLAR /t, d, n/ as in the words /butl/, /mad/ and /tanl/, the articulatory movement from the preceding consonant to the syllabic consonant /l/ is quite simple. The sides of the tongue, which are raised for the preceding consonant are lowered to allow air to escape over them while the tip and the blade of the tongue do NOT move until the articulatory contact for the /l/ is released. This is called "lateral release" or "lateral plosion".