Violation of assimilation rules does not necessarily show down direction of the violation of the nature of the fricative that precedes the vowel followed by /x/. Within syllables the velar fricative /x/ specifies place velar for the preceding nasal /n/ (e.g., [kri´n]). Across a syllable boundary the rule only applies if the first syllable is open (e.g., [kri´n]). The rule applies across a syllable boundary only if the first syllable has a back vowel (e.g., [haxt] ‘light’). The rule applies regardless of the nature of the fricative that precedes the vowel followed by /x/. Within syllables /x/ affects spoken-language processing. Therefore, the rule applies across a syllable boundary only if the first syllable has a back vowel (e.g., [haxt] ‘light’). The rule applies regardless of the nature of the fricative that precedes the vowel followed by /x/.