An affricate is a single unit consonant made up of a stop and a period of fricative release.

As with stops, affricates begin with an articulatory closure at the first stage.

After the stop release burst, there will be a more prolonged period of frication.
Affricates in the IPA

- Affricates in the IPA can be transcribed with the symbols for their stops and fricative components.
  
  \[
  \text{[tʃ]} \quad \text{[tʃɨ]} \quad \text{[tʃi]} \quad \text{[tʃi]} \\
  \text{stop} \quad \text{fricative} \quad \text{stop-fricative sequence} \quad \text{an affricate}
  \]

Polish (Kenstowicz 1994:31)

- [tʃɨ] “three”
- [tʃi] “whether”

Affricates as a segment

- Apparently, an affricate is just a production of a sequence of a stop and a fricative.
- However, affricates occupy a single phonetic/phonological unit (often called a segment) identical to a single obstruent.
- A stop-fricative sequence would be two segments rather than one.
- Hence, a sequence of a stop and a fricative does not necessarily form an affricate.
Affricates as a segment

An affricate [tʃ]  A fricative [ʃ]

Stop-fricative sequence

Stop friction sequence

Stop friction
**Affricates as a segment**

- An affricate [tʃ]  
- A stop-fricative sequence [tʃ]

Apart from acoustic measurements, phonological considerations must be taken in determining whether a combination of a stop and a fricative is an affricate.
Comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Affricate</th>
<th>Fricative</th>
<th>Plosive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fricative rising time</td>
<td>short</td>
<td>long</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friction/stop interval</td>
<td>short</td>
<td>long</td>
<td>long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release after stop</td>
<td>None, friction is part of the release</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Yes, there is a release interval</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Homorganicity

The stop and fricative intervals in most affricates are homorganic

Place of articulation of the fricative release is near or identical to place of articulation of the stop

- Alveolar: [ts] (Cantonese and German)
- Post-alveolar: [tʃ,dʒ] (English)

Heterorganic affricates exist too.

- Velar affricates: [tx] as in Navajo

\[ \text{alveolar} \quad \text{velar} \]
The End

Wee, Lian-Hee and Winnie H.Y. Cheung (2009)
An animated and narrated glossary of terms used in Linguistics.
Hong Kong Baptist University.