

IIT Madras

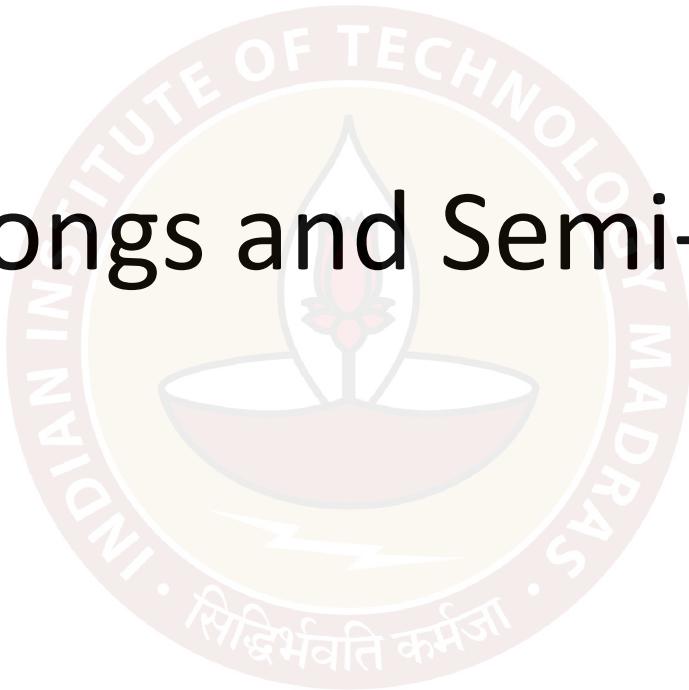
BS Degree

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Diphthongs and Semi-vowels



Consonants and Vowels

U <u>READ</u>	I <u>SIT</u>	ʊ <u>BOOK</u>	uɪ <u>TOO</u>	ɛɪ <u>HERE</u>	eɪ <u>DAY</u>	John & Sarah Free Materials 1996	
e <u>MEN</u>	ə <u>AMERICA</u>	ɜː <u>WORD</u>	ɔː <u>SORT</u>	ʊ <u>TOUR</u>	ɔɪ <u>BOY</u>	əʊ <u>GO</u>	
æ <u>CAT</u>	ʌ <u>BUT</u>	aɪ <u>PART</u>	d <u>NOT</u>	eə <u>WEAR</u>	aɪ <u>MY</u>	aʊ <u>HOW</u>	
p <u>PIG</u>	b <u>BED</u>	t <u>TIME</u>	d <u>DO</u>	tʃ <u>CHURCH</u>	dʒ <u>JUDGE</u>	k <u>KILO</u>	g <u>GO</u>
f <u>FIVE</u>	v <u>VERY</u>	θ <u>THINK</u>	ð <u>THE</u>	s <u>SIX</u>	z <u>ZOO</u>	ʃ <u>SHORT</u>	ʒ <u>CASUAL</u>
m <u>MILK</u>	n <u>NO</u>	ŋ <u>SING</u>	h <u>HELLO</u>	l <u>LIVE</u>	r <u>READ</u>	w <u>WINDOW</u>	j <u>YES</u>

Diphthongs

DIPHTHONGS

/eɪ/ as in 'take'

/aɪ/ as in 'buy'

/ɪə/ as in 'boy'

/eə/ as in 'fear'

/eə/ as in 'care'

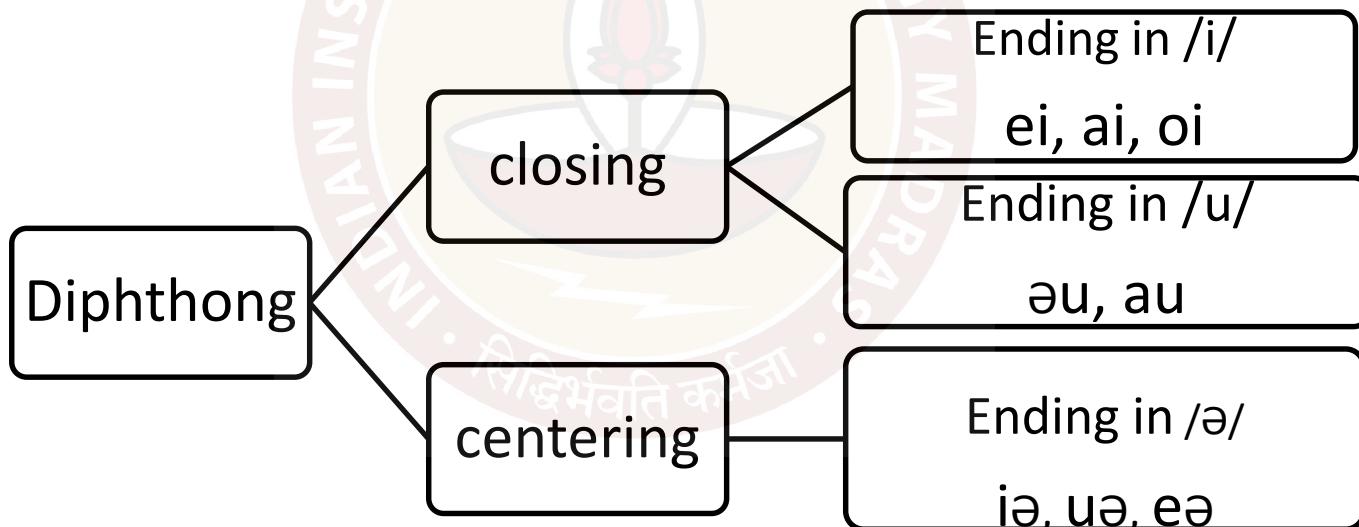
/əʊ/ as in 'go'

/ʊə/ as in 'poor'

/aʊ/ as in 'cow'

- Diphthongs are sounds which consist of a movement or a glide from one vowel to the other.
- In other words, diphthongs are produced by combining two vowels.
Eg. /ei/ is a diphthong that combines the two vowels /e/ and /i/.
- The first sound in the combination is articulated longer and stronger than the second one.

There are eight diphthongs and they can be understood through the diagram given below.



Examples

ei	ai	oi	əu	au	iə	uə	eə
take	high	boy	slow	bowl	peers	jury	pair
aim	ice	oil	owe	owl	ear	-----	air
prey	fly	alloy	go	cow	clear	cure	care
break	type	voice	float	brow	fear	poor	bear
late	right	toy	lone	allow	real	fuel	their

Semi-vowels

- The sounds w and y in English are called semi-vowels.
- There is no blockage of air in the articulation of w and y, thus giving it a vowel-like quality.
- However, w and y are non-syllabic in nature. This means that unlike vowels they do not form syllables.
- Owing to the above reason, they are referred to as consonants.

Examples

w

well

world

twin

suite

acquire

y

yesterday

intrusion

beauty

steward

few

Semi-vowels

- y and w
- These sounds do not occur at word final positions.
 - Window
 - Cow
 - Happy
 - Monday
- y and w sounds are not in the final positions.



Functions of Semi-vowels

- Go away
- I am late.
- Say it.
- Buy it.
- Put your shoe on
- Blue is my favorite color.
- Three years

