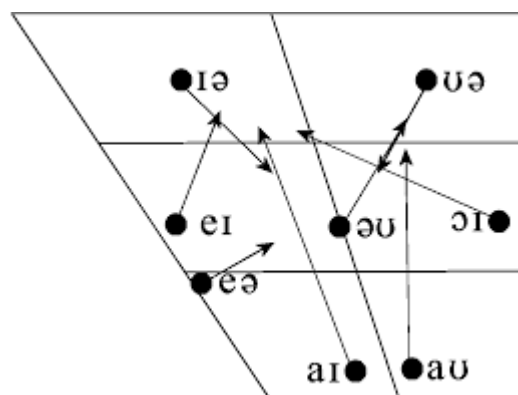
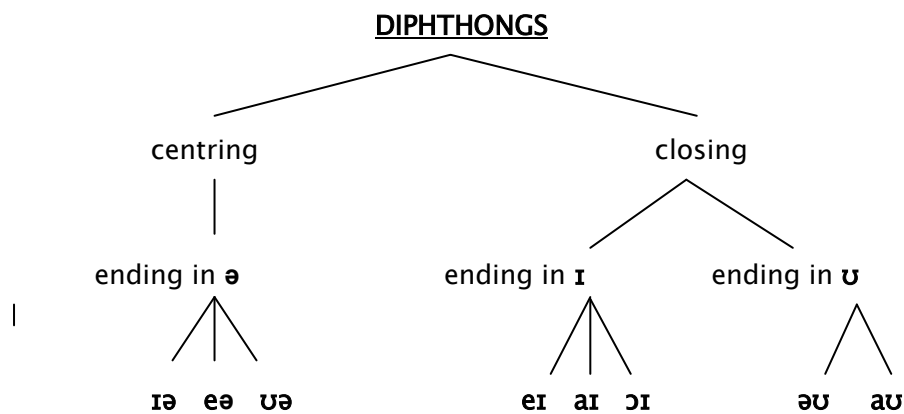


## Diphthongs in English.

There are eight diphthongs in English. Diphthongs are sounds which consist of a movement of glide from one vowel to another. Perhaps the most important thing to remember about all the diphthongs is that the first part is much longer and stronger than the second part. Take /ai/ as an example. Most of this diphthong consists of the [a] vowel, and only in about the last quarter of the diphthong does the glide to [i] begin. As the glide to [i] happens, the loudness of the sound decreases. As a result, the [i] part is shorter and quieter. The English diphthongs can be shown in the following diagram:



***The following is a description of the eight English diphthongs.***

***/ ɪə eə ʊə /***

*/ ɪə eə ʊə /* are called centring diphthongs because they all glide towards the */ə/* (schwa) vowel, as the symbols indicate. The starting point for */ ɪə /* is a little closer than */ɪ/* in *bit, bin*. */eə/* begins with the similar vowel sound as the */e/* of *get, men*. */ ʊə /* has a starting point slightly closer than */ʊ/* in *put, pull*.

***/ eɪ aɪ ɔɪ /***

*/ eɪ aɪ ɔɪ /* the three diphthongs that glide towards */ɪ/*. */eɪ/* begins with the same vowel sound as the */e/* of *get, men*. */aɪ/* begins with an open vowel which is between front and back; it is quite similar to the */ʌ/* in words like *cut, bun*. The starting point of */ɔɪ/* is a little more open than */ɔ:/* in *ought, born*. The closing diphthongs have the characteristic that they all end with a glide towards a closer vowel. Because the second part of the diphthong is weak, they often do not reach a position that could be called close. The important thing is that a glide from a relatively more open towards a relatively closer vowel is produced.

***/ əʊ aʊ /***

*/ əʊ aʊ /* are the two diphthongs that end with a glide towards */ʊ/*. So as the tongue moves closer to the roof of the mouth there is at the same time a rounding movement of the lips. This movement is not a large one, again because the second part of the diphthong is weak. The vowel position for the beginning of */ əʊ /* is the same as for the "schwa" vowel */ə/*. The lips may be slightly rounded in anticipation of the glide towards */ʊ/*, for which there is quite a noticeable lip-rounding. */ aʊ /* begins with a vowel similar to */ɑ:/* but a little more front. There is slight lip-rounding during the glide towards */ʊ/*.

## Practice

### **/ ɪə /**

tear	cheer	year
near	shear, sheer	leer
fear	here, hear	queer
clear	weir, we're	freer
dear , deer	mere	seer, sear, sere
beer	cleared	sphere
steer	rear	serious
sneer	beard	weird
jeer	smear	
merely	endearing	superior
eerie	bleary	inferior
revere	lugubrious	interfere
dreary	mysterious	imperious
queerly	appear	series
India	nuclear	cereal, serial
delirious	Julius	fearless
experience	interior	
salubrious	exterior	

Don't put your beard in the beer, not even if it's near beer, which isn't real beer, and isn't dear.

A series of mysterious crimes, some serious, appear to have been committed near here, I fear.

It's clear that some will cheer and others will jeer when the peer speaks. Though his eyes are bleary and his voice is queer, he's really a superior person with much experience, gained through years and years of serious study, not merely of theory.

We're near the end of the year.

After her dreary ordeal she was tearful but soon became cheerful.

He spoke the speech from King Lear in a clear voice, and the audience cheered and cried "Hear, hear!"

Steer clear of the pier, dear.

Clear that rubbish out of here and don't put it anywhere near.

### **/ eə /**

air, heir,	care	bare, bear
chair	rare	wear, where, ware
lair	pear, pair	tear (rend), tare
laird	scarce	hair, hare

stair , stare	share	there, their
fair, fare	blare	
flair, flare	scarce	
square	mare, mayor	
careless	repair	various
despairing	airy	unbearable
impair	scarecrow	beware
hairly	scarcely	questionnaire
fairy	Aquarius	aeroplane
compare	aquarium	commissionaire
dairy	hardware	

There, that's the square where the fair will be held. It'll be opened by the Mayor, who is already carefully preparing to do his share. It'll be a rare treat to see him enter on a mare , wearing his chain of office. That's more than you'd dare to do, I'm prepared to swear. You'd be scared of riding on a mare to the fair.

The heir took care to put out a chair for his uncle, who scarcely thanked him.

Would you dare lo go to the lair of that hairy bear?

It's not fair to stare at Claire on the stairs, nor at the dress she wears, for she's shy and doesn't care to be stared at.

You should wear a pair of trousers that will put up with wear and tear.

Mr. Clare has a flair for rare antiques.

## / uə /

poor	lure	moor
sure	cure	truer
tour	dual, duel	newer
doer, dour	steward	sewer
pure	fuel	jewel
fewer	brewer	
manual	mercurial	endure
conjure	injurious	mural
furious	individual	rural
obscure	reviewer	manure
curious	residual	luxurious
allure	casual	
spurious	jury	

The doctor wasn't sure that he could cure the poor steward of his obscure illness, but the attacks became fewer and fewer as time passed.

The tourists were out on the moor when the coach ran out of fuel, which made them furious.

The reviewer, who couldn't endure obscure poetry, claimed the poem was spurious.

"This beer's quite pure," said the brewer, "but we must let it mature, or else it'll be a poor brew."

The furious cooks fought a curious duel with skewers.

Casual manual labour isn't injurious to the individual who can endure heavy work.

Your roses need pure manure to make them mature.

The jury were sure the poor man was innocent of stealing the jewels.

These newer attractions are sure to lure the tourists.

### / eɪ /

age	aim	tray
ache	aid	say
ape	frail	slay
fate	paid	pay
late	raid	bray
same	laid	bate, bait
name	sable	tale, tail
race	mange	waste, waist
frame	haste	nay, neigh
make	taste	hail, hale
came	strange	mane, main
snake	cradle	chaste, chased
grape		male, mail
wave	eight	gate, gait
shame	freight	vane, vain, vein
shave	hay	pray, prey

favour	abrade	to co-ordinate
afraid	cavalcade	earthquake
lazy	major	to animate
amaze	available	contemplate
to estimate	basis	sleight
to deliberate	mitigate	ancient
to moderate	populate	arrange
basin	basement	
radiant	declaim	

James hates people taking his name in vain.

Eight grave grey apes were eating grapes without haste. The flavour of the grapes made the apes say : "Hey! We're glad we came to taste these grapes today.'

The main game that apes play is that of chasing their neighbours and shaking their tails.

In spite of his age, he has neither aches nor pains.

Our maid Maisie makes mistakes but she never breaks plates, and isn't lazy. The other day Major Clay came to stay with us, and Maisie thought he was her fiancé, for they have the same gait, Major Clay and the fiancé, Joe May, the baker's boy. So Maisie made straight for the Major and embraced him, to his amazement. When she saw her mistake, she hastened away, but the Major was gay for the rest of the day.

### / aɪ /

mild	sigh	flies
kind	height	fry
bind	thigh	I, eye
mind, mined	slight, sleight	thyme, time
wind	sky	rhyme
high	skies	
delight	wild	idle, idol
bicycle	while	tie
tricycle	night, knight	lie
deny	bright	despite
surprise	flight	syphon (or: siphon)
advertise	might, mite	despise
decline	right, rite, write	silence
syren, siren	try	quite
blind	shy	shiny
signed	cry	recline
find	by, buy, bye	sniper
isle	dye, die	

Ice in my nice wine? No, no ice. Ice in wine is not nice. Iced wine's a vice Fine wine is not nice with ice. I won't deny I like wine. I do like wine. I delight in the tight wine. The tight wine lit the right time. And the time, you know, is always right for wine. Whether it's five or nine or any other time, it's always time for wine for a civilized mind. Drink wine and learn to rhyme

nine and wine and rhyme and time. A rhyme in time saves nine, Drink, some fine Cyprus wine and praise the vine that grew the wine. Nine ripe wines in a line make time fly. Time flies anyhow. I might deny that time flies, but I won't, tonight. Time flies but I don't. Why the time flies neither mice nor men know. Why doesn't ice fly and time melt? I don't know why, so pass the wine and try to pass the time. Pour some time into my wine and I'll live to the nine hundred and ninety-nine before I die.

### /ɔɪ/

oil	soil	choice
moist	joist	broil
hoist	coil	foil
join	void	joint
boil	coin	boy, buoy
quoit	voice	cloy
toil	loin	coy
foist	spoil	toy
annoy	enjoy	recoil
ointment	deploy	despoil
oily	employ	poison
oyster	rejoice	moisture
boisterous	exploit (noun)	
hoity-toity	exploit (verb)	

It's a joy to watch the boy playing with his toys.

That noisy boy has a voice that's most annoying. His only way of enjoying himself is to make a noise.

What sort of a noise would a noisy, annoyed oyster make?

The oily voice of the lawyer spoilt our enjoyment of the play.

We must leave the choice to the fall of a coin.

To avoid rheumatism, anoint your joints with an oily ointment.

Plant those royal lilies in moist soil.

Don't spoil the joint by boiling.

The employer exploited his employees and foisted all sorts of toil on them.

**/ aʊ /**

owl	now	mound
town	cow	shout
bow	brow	louse
round	found	spouse
crowd	mouse	loud
sprout	house	proud
how	round	doubt
row	sprout	spout
brown	bounce	souse
gown	rouse	scout
drown	plough, plow	lout
frown	trout	
about	resound	trousers
around	thousand	renowned
aloud, allowed	confound	endowed
mountain	abound	clowning
fountain	flounder	
scoundrel	expound	

John Brown's been to town. Now, in town he found an owl, a towel, and a trowel. Don't scowl: he really did buy an owl, a stuffed owl, an elegant fowl. That stuffed brown owl will stand on his mantelpiece, with a stuffed brown mouse in its foul beak. Brown's dog Towser will growl when he sees that owl, and the baby'll howl. Towser's a sound dog, a bouncing hound who covers the ground by leaps and bounds. I haven't found out how much Brown paid for that owl, but the amount was doubtless large. Oh hello, Brown, how are you? And where's Towser? Ah, Towser? Down, Towser, down ! Brown, stop Towser! Towser's growling and tearing my trousers, Towser, you clown, get down! Go and tear your master's trousers, Brown's trousers.

**/ əʊ /**

home	Rome, roam	slow, sloe
tone	oak	know, no
hope	oaf	hold, holed
nose, knows	boat	fold, foaled
bone	boast	ghost
note	moan	though
choke	glow	dough, doe
rope	show, shew	groan
joke	blow	soak



coal	throw	bold, bowled
goal	flow	hoe
foal	crow	comb
bow	told, tolled	so sew, ,sow
grow	cold	
potato.	borrow	ogre
tomato	burrow	photograph
only	barrow	probate
Roman	marrow	imposing
sorrow	sparrow	coconut
tomorrow	narrow	smoulder
goat	node	coke
note	robe	soap
own	slopes	joke
Joan	mope	sewed, sowed
hope	code	oaks
ode, owed	lobe	boned
rode, road, rowed	tote	shown/shewn
owner	tope	
soak	smoke	

Don't you know, Rover's got no bone? What, no bone for Rover? Rover won't stay at home unless Rover's got a bone. Joe, go to Jones the butcher's and get á bone lest poor Rover groan and leave home. Phone? No, don't phone - go. If you go they'll show you bones galore, for they've oceans of bones below where it's cold. They've sold bones since Bonaparte died, so they know good bones from mouldy old bones. Take Rover with you, Joe. Rover too knows a good bone when he sees one. Buy him a bone that weighs half a stone.