

List of diphthongs | List of common words with diphthongs

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What is a diphthong?

A diphthong is the sound of two vowels pronounced together as one syllable by gliding quickly from the first vowel to the second.

For example, take the two vowel sounds /a/ (as in *cat*) and /ɪ/ (as in *sit*). When we glide quickly from /a/ to /ɪ/, we get an /aɪ/ sound (as in *try* or *bye*).

Similarly, take the vowel sounds /e/ and /ə/ (the sound heard at the end of words such as *mother* and *winter*). When we voice them together we get the /eə/ sound, which we use in words such as *there*, *chair* and *care*.

Standard English has eight diphthongs

/eɪ/ /aɪ/ /ɔɪ/ /ɪə/ /eə/ /ʊə/ /əʊ/ /aʊ/

Common words containing diphthongs:

/eɪ/	/aɪ/	/ɔɪ/
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>face</i> ▪ <i>day</i> ▪ <i>break</i> ▪ <i>lake</i> ▪ <i>parade</i> ▪ <i>remain</i> ▪ <i>insane</i> ▪ <i>aeroplane</i> ▪ <i>chain</i> ▪ <i>cake</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>high</i> ▪ <i>try</i> ▪ <i>lie</i> ▪ <i>die</i> ▪ <i>fly</i> ▪ <i>light</i> ▪ <i>supply</i> ▪ <i>eye</i> ▪ <i>goodbye</i> ▪ <i>sigh</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>boy</i> ▪ <i>toy</i> ▪ <i>joy</i> ▪ <i>employ</i> ▪ <i>decoy</i> ▪ <i>royal</i> ▪ <i>loyal</i> ▪ <i>noisy</i> ▪ <i>enjoy</i> ▪ <i>boil</i>
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/ɪə/	/eə/	/ʊə/
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>near</i> ▪ <i>fear</i> ▪ <i>weird</i> ▪ <i>cheers</i> ▪ <i>ear</i> ▪ <i>beer</i> ▪ <i>career</i> ▪ <i>year</i> ▪ <i>engineer</i> ▪ <i>wier</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>where</i> ▪ <i>there</i> ▪ <i>fair</i> ▪ <i>hair</i> ▪ <i>beware</i> ▪ <i>bear</i> ▪ <i>bare</i> ▪ <i>square</i> ▪ <i>repair</i> ▪ <i>mayor</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>poor</i> ▪ <i>cure</i> ▪ <i>ensure</i> ▪ <i>jury</i> ▪ <i>endure</i> ▪ <i>moor</i> ▪ <i>tour</i> ▪ <i>mature</i> ▪ <i>curious</i> ▪ <i>lure</i>

/əʊ/	/aʊ/	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>go</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>how</i> 	



▪ <i>know</i>	▪ <i>now</i>	
▪ <i>below</i>	▪ <i>allow</i>	
▪ <i>throw</i>	▪ <i>plough</i>	
▪ <i>elbow</i>	▪ <i>eyebrow</i>	
▪ <i>flow</i>	▪ <i>flower</i>	
▪ <i>borrow</i>	▪ <i>tower</i>	
▪ <i>yellow</i>	▪ <i>empower</i>	
▪ <i>hollow</i>	▪ <i>devour</i>	

5 Comments



Anonymous - May 18, 2023, 4:44 pm

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I don't like this exercise



George - November 24, 2023, 6:32 am

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Warm greetings.

Can you give any/all words that have the EO diphthong in them.

Thus far, I only have three words.

gEOrge – long O sound;

IEOpard – short E sound;

pEOple – long E sound;

Are there any more words? Is there any website that can help?

I look forward to your reply.

George



Anonymous - February 16, 2024, 6:04 am

[Reply](#)

Theory is one



Anonymous - August 5, 2024, 1:00 pm

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