

First Year (second Course) Tenth Lecture

Chapter 5: Diphthongs (p. 84)

In the previous lecture, we talked about monophthongs, which are the vowels that remain in their position and they do not glide to another vowel position. Today, we will talk about diphthongs, which are not constant i.e. they glide from one vowel position to another.

- **What is a diphthong?**

A diphthong is a glide from one vowel to another and the whole glide is seen like one long vowel.

- **What are the kinds of diphthongs?**

There are two types of diphthongs?

1. **Closing diphthongs:**
 - **Why do we call them closing?**

Because they are the vowels that move or glide to a close position. They fall into two types:

- a. Diphthongs ending in /ɪ/ which is a close vowel.
 - (eɪ) as in /deɪ/ **day**
 - (aɪ) as in /waɪ/ **why**
 - (oɪ) as in /toɪ/ **toy**
- b. Diphthongs ending in /ʊ/
 - (aʊ) as in /naʊ/ **now**
 - (əʊ) as in /ləʊ/ **law**

2. Centering diphthongs:

- Why do we call them centering?

Because they are the vowels that move or glide to a central position. They are of one type only as they may end in /ə/ only.

(ɪə) as in /hɪə/ **here**

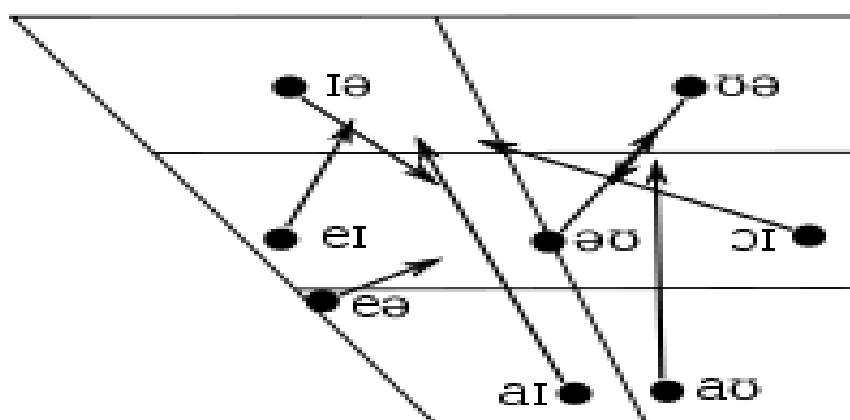
(ʊə) as in /pʊə/ **poor**

(eə) as in /heə/ **hair**

Note: The diphthongs /ɪə/, /eə/ and /ʊə/ are very difficult to pronounce as they are not frequently realized in everyday language native speakers use nowadays. Native speakers often pronounce the word (here) as /hi:/ not /hɪə/, and (poor) as /po:/ instead of /pʊə/.

Diphthong	Example	
Closing		
/eɪ/	/beɪ/	bay
/aɪ/	/baɪ/	buy
/ɔɪ/	/bɔɪ/	boy
/əʊ/	/bəʊ/	beau
/aʊ/	/baʊ/	bough

Centering		
/ɪə/	/bɪə/	beer
/ʊə/	/pʊə/	poor
/eə/	/weə/	Wary



Vowel Chart that shows the glides of all diphthongs

