

Diphthongs: Definition, description, and types.

A **diphthong** is a sound made by combining two **vowels**, specifically when it starts as one vowel sound and goes to another, like the oy sound in oil. **Diphthong** comes from the Greek word diphthongos which **means** "having two sounds." ... **Sodiphthongs** are double vowel sounds in words like late, ride, or pout.

Diphthongs and Gliding Vowels. A single vowel, such as the "O" or "I" in "oil" is called a monophthong (mono for one, di for two). An **example** of a monophthong is the "O" in "hop." But, when we move from one vowel sound to another, such as the "oi" in "oil," it's called gliding.

Diphthongs fall into three main categories:

1. Diphthongs ending in /u/. They are /au/ and /ou/
2. Diphthongs ending in /ə/. They are /iə/ , /eə/ and /uə/
3. Diphthongs ending in /i/. There are three diphthongs: /ei/, /ai/, and /oi/.

To sum up, a **diphthong** is a vowel sound that involves movement of the tongue from one position to another. Nearly all dialects of **English** include the **three major diphthongs** [aɪ] , [aʊ] , and [ɔɪ]. These ones are called the **major diphthongs** because they involve large movements of the tongue. Diphthongs are types of vowels where two vowel sounds are connected in a continuous, gliding motion. They are often referred to as gliding vowels. Most languages have a number of diphthongs, although that number varies widely, from only one or two to **fifteen** or more.