

Description of Diphthongs.

Diphthongs are vowel glides. It means during the articulation of a diphthong a glide from one vowel to another takes place. Usually the first vowel of a diphthong is longer and louder than the second. The diphthongs are eight in number. They are - |eɪ|, |aɪ|, |ɔɪ|, |ɪə|, |ʊə|, |eə|, |aʊ|, |əʊ|

The following diagram shows that three diphthongs end with |ɪ| (eɪ, aɪ, ɔɪ), another three end with |ə| (ɪə, ʊə, eə) and the rest two diphthongs end with |ʊ| (aʊ, əʊ).

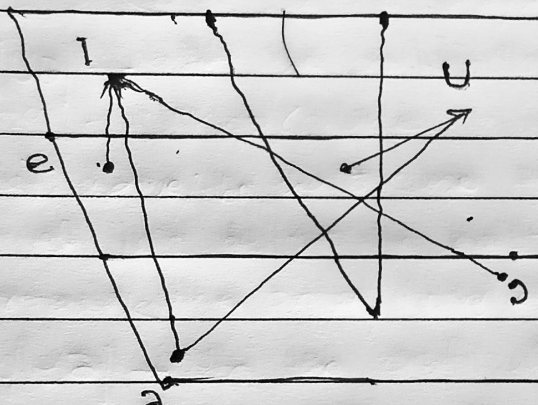


Fig. 1 (eɪ, aɪ, ɔɪ, əʊ, aʊ)

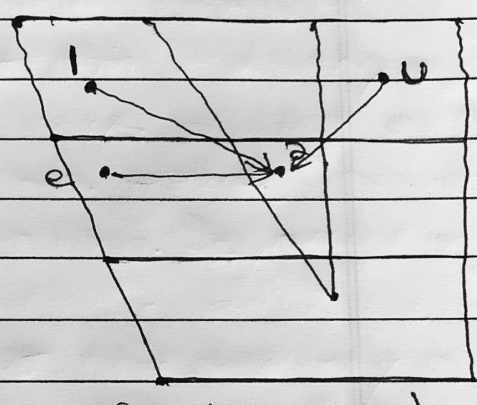


Fig. (eə, ɪə, ʊə)

(I) |eɪ| - In the articulation of this diphthong a glide starts from the front unrounded vowel between half open and half close position to a front unrounded vowel just above the half close position. It occurs in the words paint, make, etc.

(II) |aɪ| - In the articulation of this diphthong a glide starts from a centralized front open unrounded vowel just above

half close position. It occurs in the words try, try, etc.

(iii) /ɔɪ/ - In the articulation of this diphthong a glide takes place from a back rounded vowel between open and half open position to a front unrounded vowel between open just above half close position. It occurs in the words toy, ploy, etc.

(iv) /ɪə/ - In the articulation of this diphthong, a glide takes place from a front unrounded vowel just above the half-close position to a central unrounded vowel just below the half-open position. It occurs in the words like near, bear etc.

(v) /ʊə/ - In the articulation of this diphthong, a glide takes place from a back rounded vowel just above the half close position to a central unrounded vowel just below the half-open position. It occurs in the words like poor, tour etc.

(vi) /eə/ - In the articulation of this diphthong a glide starts from a front unrounded vowel between half open and half close position to a central unrounded vowel, just below the half open position. It occurs in the words like pair, share etc.

(vii) /aʊ/ - In the articulation of this diphthong a glide starts from a back unrounded vowel near the open position to a back rounded vowel just above the half-close position. It occurs in words like ^{now, cow} ~~go, no~~

(viii) /əʊ/ - In the articulation of this diphthong, a glide starts from a central unrounded vowel above the half-close position to a back rounded vowel above the half-close position. It occurs in the words like go, no, etc.