

I'm not a robot



English diphthongs, their common letter combinations and some example words. After that, we'll give a full explanation of diphthongs, more examples, plus audio and tips for mastering diphthongs.

Contents

Diphthong

Common Letter Combinations

Example Words

/aʊ/ *ow*, *oudown*, *mouth/a/igh*, *i*, *ylike*, *why/e/ay*, *ai*, *ei*, *ey*, *ea*, *await*, *they/e/ai*, *e*, *a* (before *r*)*hair*, *where/e/a*, *ee*, *e* (before *r* or *l*)*dear*, *peel/o/ow*, *oa*, *oknow*, *rose/o/y*, *oiboy*, *noise/u/ury*, *pure*

What Are Diphthongs? To understand what a diphthong is, we first have to return to the basics: vowels. According to Cambridge's English Dictionary, a vowel is a sound produced by the human mouth without being obstructed (blocked) by the teeth, tongue or lips. For example, American English vowels are often categorized (organized by type) as long and short vowel sounds. The word diphthong comes from the Greek word meaning two sounds. Based on that definition, we can understand that a diphthong is a sound that combines two vowel sounds. In fact, these two vowel sounds are pronounced so closely together that they almost sound like one sound instead of two! While a diphthong could be any two vowel sounds pronounced together, American English only has eight major diphthongs. We'll take a look at each one now.

Note: The letters in sideways brackets are from the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), a writing system that allows for accurate descriptions of sounds in all languages.

- /aɪ/** as in *Town* This diphthong can have many spellings and is commonly written as *ow* or *ou* within English words. Examples with the **/aɪ/** diphthong include: *brown* *frown* *mouth* *down* *pound* Its also in the interjection *Ow!* used to express pain or discomfort when someone gets hurt. Keep in mind that this diphthong is pronounced differently in other forms of English, most notably Canadian English.
- /aʊ/** as in *Light* This diphthong is commonly written as *igh*, but can also be represented by a single *i* or *y* in English words. When its written as a single *i*, its normally followed by a consonant and an *e*, like in the first two (and a few other) examples: *bite* *crime* *might* *pride* *bike* *cry* *why* *like* *slide* This diphthong is also pronounced slightly differently in certain dialects of English.
- /eɪ/** as in *Play* The diphthong **/eɪ/** has quite a few different spellings in English. It can be written as *ay*, *ai*, *ei*, *ey*, *ea* or a single *a*. Like our previous diphthong, when **/eɪ/** is written as a single *a*, its normally followed by a consonant and then an *e*. You can see this in the first two examples, as well as the final example: *plate* *blame* *may* *wait* *freight* *they* *great* *space*
- /eɪ/** as in *Pair* This diphthongs pronunciation is very similar to the **/eɪ/** diphthong, but this one occurs most commonly before the letter *r*. Its commonly written as an *ai*, a single *e* or a single *a* that comes before an *r*. For example, this diphthong can be heard in the words: *5. //* as in *Deer* Like our previous diphthong, **/eɪ/** occurs commonly before certain consonants. Firstly, it can occur before the letter *r*, but it can also come before the letter *l*. Its commonly written as *ee*, *ea* or a single *e* that comes before an *r* or *l*. *peel* *dear* *meal* *atmosphere*
- /oɪ/** as in *Slow* The diphthong **/oɪ/** is quite versatile (able to be used in different situations). Its commonly written in a variety of ways, such as *ow*, *oa* or a single *o* that's followed by a consonant and an *e*.
- /ɔɪ/** as in *Toy* After our previous diphthong, you'll be happy to know that this one is easier to identify based on the spelling. Quite simply, its commonly written as *oy* or *oi*, such as in the words: *boy* *void* *employ* *noise* *coin*
- //** as in *Sure* The **//** diphthong may be hard to spot. Its a little bit like a spider hiding under that slide we've been talking about sometimes, its hard to tell if its even there! Thats because this diphthong is sometimes pronounced as a single vowel sound, even in the American English dialect. That means that the sound at the end of *sure* may sound more like the English word *purr*, which has only one vowel sound. This diphthong is most commonly written as a single *u*, typically followed by a consonant and then another vowel sound. Examples of this diphthong are: *Tips* for Learning English Diphthongs

Whats the best way to learn English diphthongs? Why, its to actually hear them in isolation and as parts of words, of course! You can: Watch a YouTube video. In this video from Rachels English, you can listen to five of the eight American English diphthongs. She breaks down the pronunciation of each one in easy-to-understand terms and then gives some examples of common words that contain the diphthongs. Watch videos of native speakers using diphthongs. Listen to how native speakers actually use diphthongs in their own speech. On the FluentU program, native English videos come with interactive subtitles that you can pause to see definitions and other helpful notes. Take a quiz to measure your progress. You can check out this video and short quiz on diphthongs, which are companions to the Essential of Linguistics textbook. You can also practice the common spellings of American English diphthongs with SpellingCity. Try resources designed for children. If youre looking for English diphthong practice for kids, or you just want something super easy to make sure you really understand diphthongs, The Joyful Learner has you covered with this practice package. Well, that list wasn't too frightening, was it? Armed with your new knowledge of the eight American English diphthongs, you'll be the talk of the town! If you like learning English through movies and online media, you should also check out FluentU. FluentU lets you learn English from popular talk shows, catchy music videos and funny commercials, as you can see here. If you want to watch it, the FluentU app has probably got it. The FluentU app and website makes it really easy to watch English videos. There are captions that are interactive. That means you can tap on any word to see an image, definition, and useful examples. FluentU lets you learn engaging content with world famous celebrities. For example, when you tap on the word "searching," you see this: FluentU lets you tap to look up any word. Learn all the vocabulary in any video with quizzes. Swipe left or right to see more examples for the word youre learning. FluentU helps you learn fast with useful questions and multiple examples. Learn more.

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List the 8 diphthongs in english. List the 8 diphthongs. What are diphthongs give any five examples. List 8 diphthongs with examples. What are the 8 diphthongs with examples.