

The Effective Way of Understanding of the Diphthongs in English

AG. Venkateswarlu

Asst. Professor, Dept. Of English, Santhiram Engineering College, Nandyal,

AP, INDIA

About Author - AG.Venkateswarlu, Asst. Professor of English, in Santhiram Engineering College, Nandyal, Kurnool, AP. He has been working for eight years dealing with English Language and Communication Skills to B.Tech Students and MCA, MBA Students.

Abstract

The main aim of this paper is to give a lucid idea how to comprehend the articulation of the diphthongs in English for Engineering Students especially. Phonetics is meant the science of speech sounds, their production by means of the lips, tongue, palate, and vocal chords, their acoustic qualities, their combination into syllables and other sound groups, and finally quantity, stress and intonation. Phonetics thus may be called that part of linguistic science which deals with the outward aspect of language as opposed to the inner or psychological side of language, or it may look upon as that part of physics and of physiology which deals specially with sounds as used by human beings to communicate thoughts and feelings to one another.

Keywords – *Diphthongs, Phonetics, production, pronunciation, and speech sounds,*

Introduction

While I have been teaching to B. Tech students I have observed the students have been facing problems how to pronounce rightly, by keeping it in my mind, I want to give a lucid idea how to comprehend the articulation of the diphthongs in English so I started this expedition. Diphthongs are glided vowel sounds that combine two individual sounds within a single syllable. Two common diphthongs in English are the /ow/ sound as in the word **cow** and the /Oy/ sound as in the word **boy**.

The diphthong **aw** combines /a/ as in **cat** with /oo/ as in **a zoo**. This diphthong can be spelled with the letters **o-w** or **o-u**. The diphthong **Oy** combines /aw/ as in **law** with /ee/ as in **seeing**. This

diphthong can be spelled with the letters **o-i** or **o-y**. Because of the spelling variations for each diphthong, writers need to choose between two possible spellings when they wish to spell a diphthong word. It is important that students build up a list of familiar diphthong words that they have seen in print and can call to mind when writing. The song, *The Right Diphthong*, provides students with practice in spelling frequently used diphthong words containing each of the four spelling patterns. Diphthong words are grouped by spelling families (e.g., **out/shout, found/hound, cow/now, brown/crown**). As students sing the spelling patterns, they view the words on the Mini-Charts, reinforcing learning through both auditory and visual channels as they form memory links to diphthong spelling families. Once students have mastered the basic words in the song, they can think of other examples of diphthong words and practice them with the instrumental version of the song.

Definition

A diphthong is a glide from one vowel to another, and the whole glides acts like one of the long, simple vowels; so we have **by:, bu:, /bɔ:,** and also. **Beɪ, bəʊ, baɪ, baʊ, bɔɪ, bɪə, beə, buə** the diphthongs of English are in three groups: those which end in, /ʊ/, /əʊ, aʊ/ those which end in / i: / **eɪ, aɪ, ɔɪ** / and those which end in /ə//ɪə, eə ʊə/.

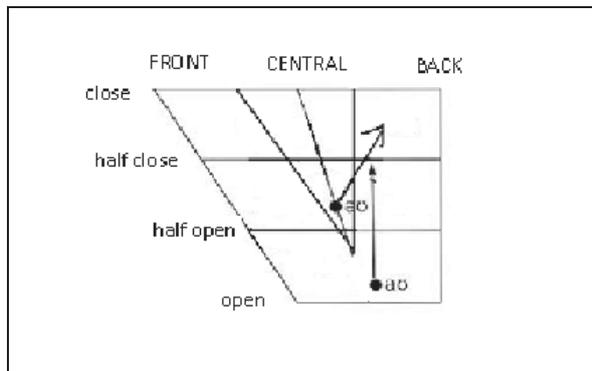
The Effective Way of Understanding of the Diphthongs

Diphthongs consist of eight sounds

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

Those which end in, /ʊ/- /əʊ, aʊ/

diphthongs		
/ əʊ /	/ aʊ /	the tongue moves / ʊ /



Sound-//əʊ/

Elucidation: - A glide from a central unrounded between half-close and half-open to a centralized back rounded vowel just above the half-close position.

Examples: 1. low /ləʊ/

2. snow-/snəʊ/

3. close-/kləʊz/

4. coal-/kəʊl/

5. so-/səʊ/

Spelling

	often
/ <u>əʊ</u> /	O(old),O-E(stone),OW (show),OA(coat),OE(toe)

Sound - /aʊ/,

Elucidation: - A glide from the back, open unrounded position and moves in the directions of RP (u)

Examples: 1.now-/naʊ/

2. loud-/laʊd/

3. Found-/faʊnd/

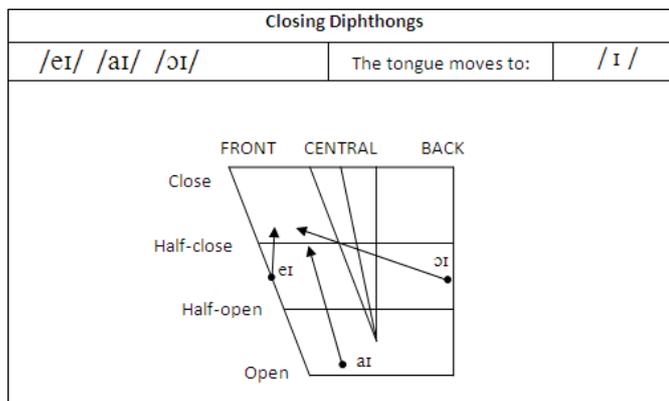
4. row-/raʊ/

5. dout-/daʊt/

Spelling

	often
/aʊ/	OW(cow),OU(loud)

Those which end in / i:/- /eɪ, aɪ, ɔɪ/



Sound -/eɪ/

Elucidation: - A glide from a front unrounded vowel just below half close to a centralized front unrounded vowel just above half-close.

Examples: 1.late /leɪt/

2. paper-/'peɪ.pə r /

3. trade-/treɪd/

4. fail-/feɪl/

5. lake-/leɪk/

Spelling

	often
/eɪ/	A- E(mate),AY(say),EY(grey),EI(eight),AI(wait),EA(great)

Sound - /aɪ/

Elucidation: - A glide from a front –open unrounded vowel to a centralized front unrounded vowel just above half-close.

Examples: 1.white/waɪt/

2. rice/raɪs/

3. like /laɪk/

4. rise/raɪz/

5. file/faɪl/

Spelling

	often
/aɪ/	I-E(smile),IE(die),Y(cry)

Sound - /ɔɪ/

Elucidation: - A glide from a back rounded vowel between open and half- open to a centralized front unrounded vowel just above the half-close position.

Examples: 1.boy /bɔɪ/

2. Oil /ɔɪ/

3. voice/vɔɪs/

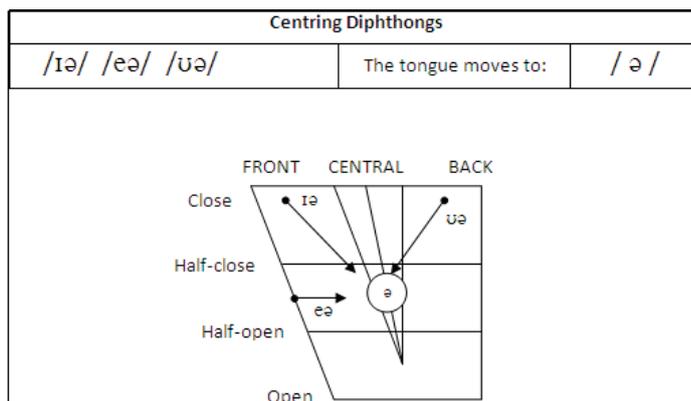
4. noise/nɔɪz/

5. joint/dʒɔɪnt/

Spelling

	often
/ɔɪ/	OY(boy),OI(coin)

Those which end in /ə/-/ɪə, eə ʊə/.



Sound -/ɪə/

Elucidation: - A glide from a centralized front unrounded vowel just above half-close to a central unrounded vowel between half-close and half-open.

- Examples:**
1. ear /ɪə r /
 2. fear /fɪə r /
 3. really /¹rɪə.li/
 4. beard /bɪəd/
 5. clear /klɪə r /

Sound -/eə/

Elucidation: - A glide from a front half-open unrounded vowel to a central unrounded vowel between half-close and half-open.

- Examples:**
1. hair /heə r /

2. rarely/'reə.li/

3. wary/'weə.ri/

4. bare/beə r /

5. air/eə r /

Spelling

	often
/ə/	ARE(care),AIR(fair),EAR(bear),ERE(where)

Sound - /ʊə/

Elucidation: - A glide from the centralized back rounded vowel just above half-close to a central unrounded vowel between half-close and half-open.

Examples: 1.pure/pjʊə r /

2. tourist/'tʊə.rɪst/

3. purely/pjʊə.li/

4. cure/kjʊə r /

5. furious/'fjʊə .ri.əs/

Conclusion

The study outcome showed that classroom interaction with right pronunciation used in technology could be improved by providing necessary practice in construction of simple sounds. It was further ascertained that students practice English pronunciation after overcoming the initial teething problems of reluctance and shyness. They were slow in their improvement; but their rate of improvement can be enhanced through constant practice. Students of B.Tech are given more time for right pronunciation in English but they deeply concentrate on other subjects. This method will save them from over exhaustion from other subjects. Good results in overall learning and better outcomes can also be noted in communication English.

Works Cited

1. Better English Pronunciation by J.D.O'Connor, Cambridge Edition
2. English Pronunciation in Use by Mark Hancock, Cambridge University Press
3. A Manual for English Language Laboratories by D.Sudha Rani, Pearson
4. <http://www.actionfactor.com/pages/lesson-plans/v2.05-diphthongs.html>
5. Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary
6. Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary
7. Cambridge Pronunciation Dictionary by Daniel Jones