

Vowels



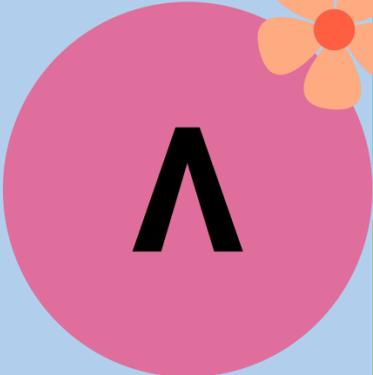
æ



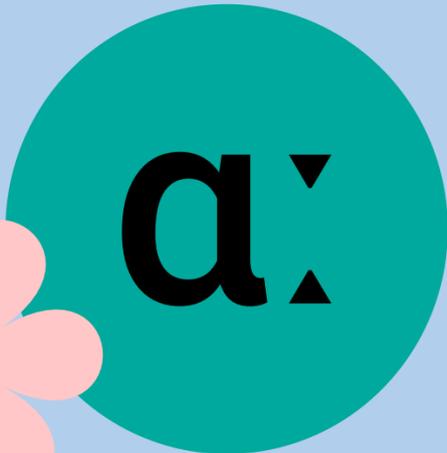
ɜː



ɪə



ʌ



ɑː

Asst.Prof.Dr.Teeraporn Plailek

Faculty of Education,
Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University

Definitions of Vowels

- 🌸 Vowel is a speech sound in which the mouth is open and the tongue is not touching the top of the mouth, the teeth, etc.

(Oxford Learner's Dictionary)

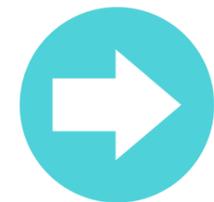
- 🌸 Vowel is a speech sound produced by humans when the breath flows out through the mouth without being blocked by the teeth, tongue, or lips.

(Cambridge Learner's Dictionary)

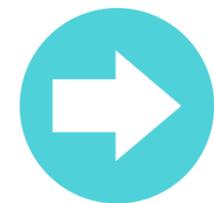
Vowels are described based on the features:



Tongue position



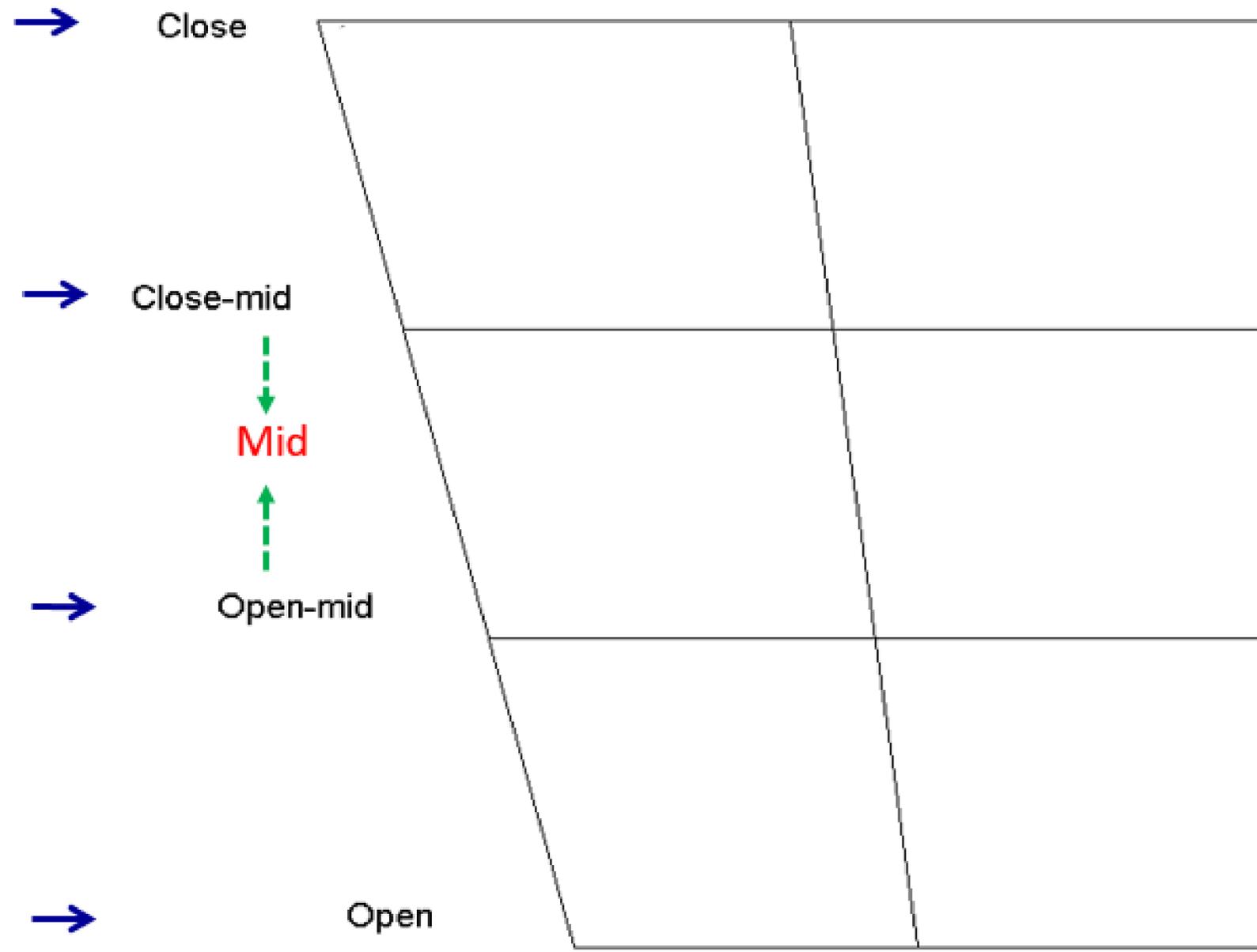
Tongue height



Lip position

Tongue position

↓ Front ↓ Central ↓ Back



Tongue height

Lip position

unrounded



FRONT

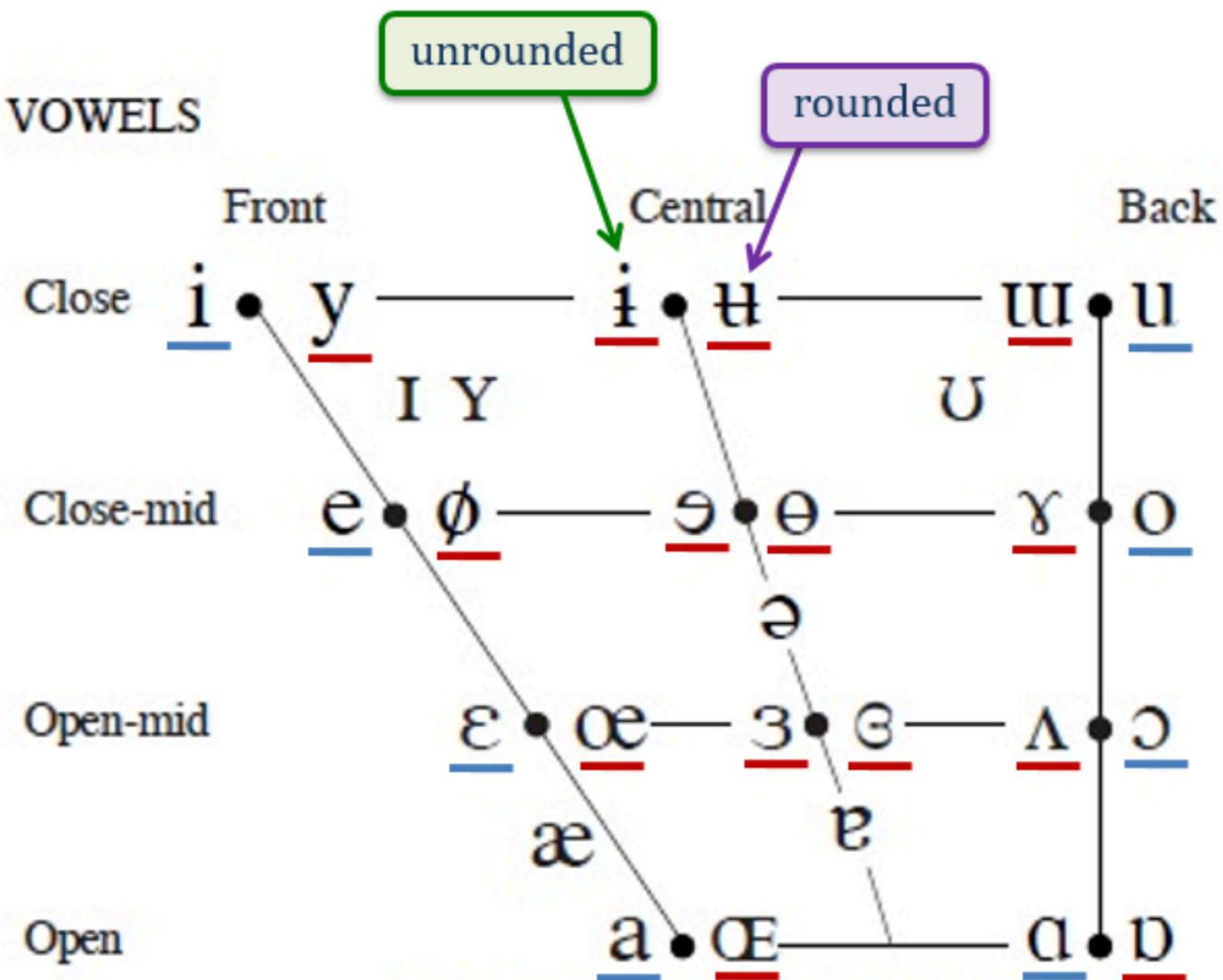


BACK



rounded

VOWELS

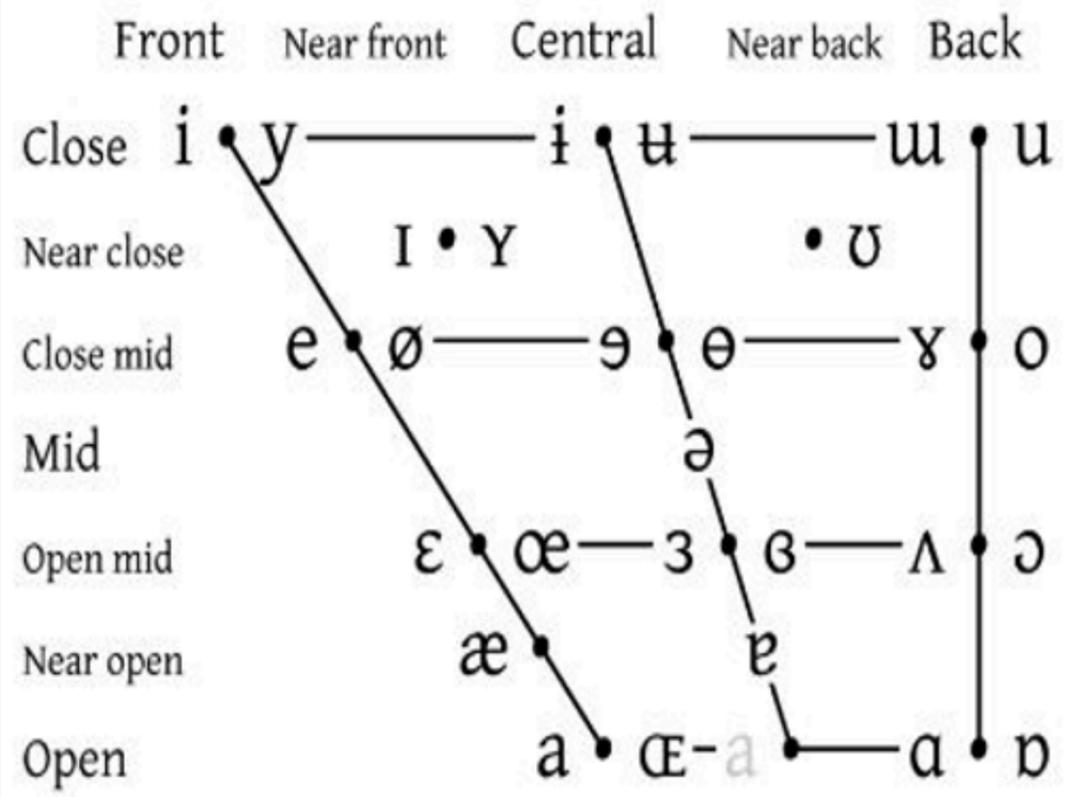


Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a rounded vowel.

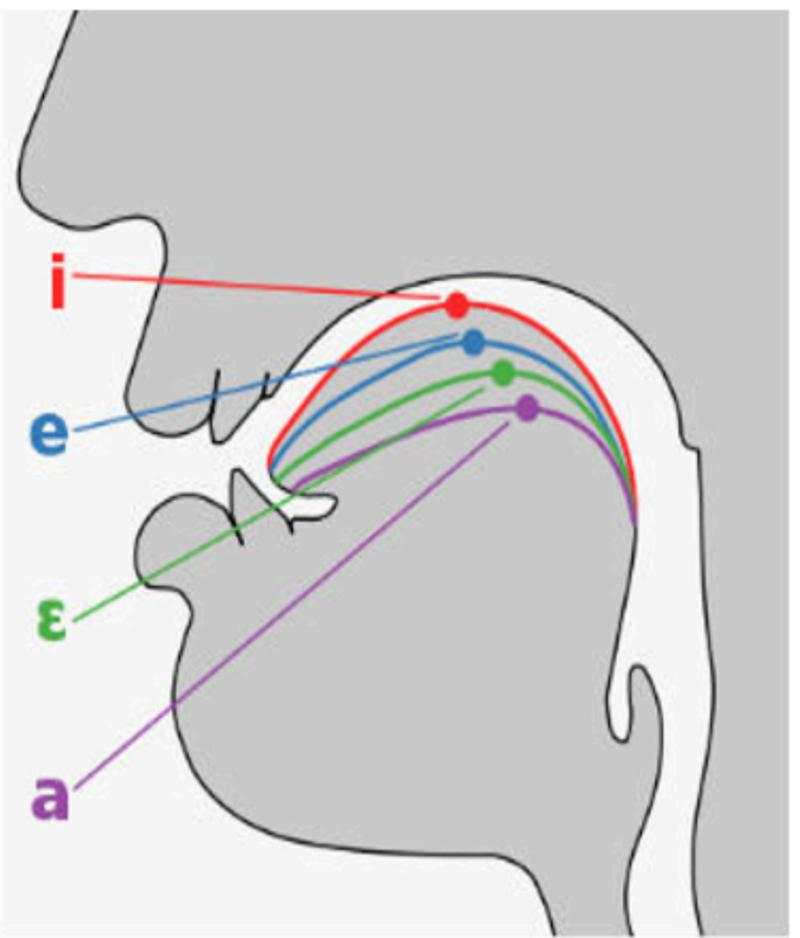
Primary cardinal vowels

Secondary cardinal vowels

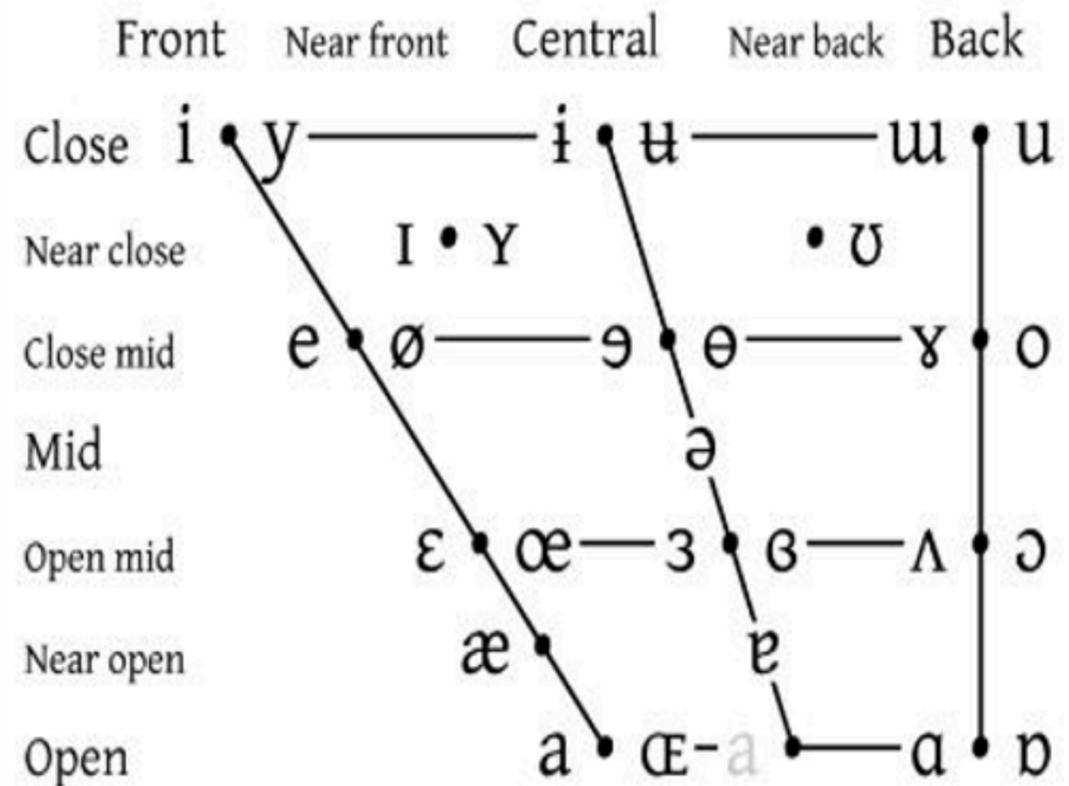
The IPA: Vowels



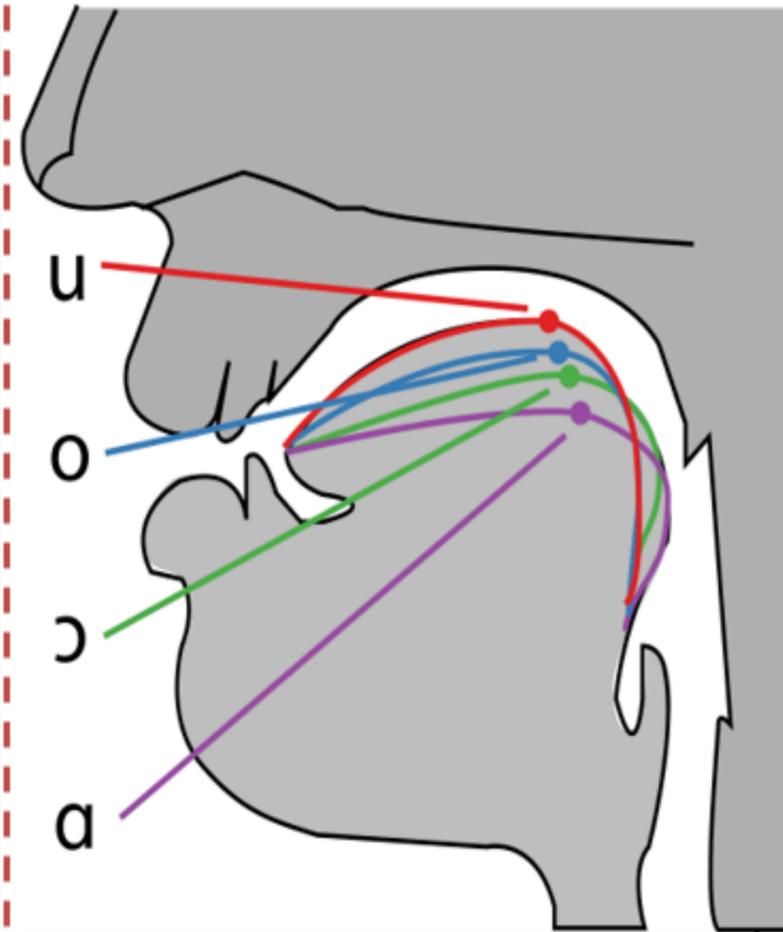
Vowels at right & left of bullets are rounded & unrounded.



The IPA: Vowels



Vowels at right & left of bullets are rounded & unrounded.



Monophthongs

¹ i:	² ɪ	³ e	⁴ æ
⁵ ə	⁶ ɜ:	⁷ ʌ	⁸ ɑ:
⁹ u:	¹⁰ ʊ	¹¹ ɔ:	¹² ɒ

	Front		Central		Back	
	long	short	long	short	long	short
Close	i:	ɪ			u:	ʊ
Mid		e	ɜ:	ə	ɔ:	
Open		æ		ʌ	ɑ:	ɒ

Tongue height

Tongue position

Lip position

Vowels:	Closeness:	Frontness:	Rounding:	Example:
[i:]	close	front	unrounded	See /si:/
[ɪ]	close	front	unrounded	Any /eni/
[ɪ]	near-close	near-front	unrounded	Sit /sɪt/
[æ]	near-open	front	unrounded	Hat /hæt/
[e]	open-mid	front	unrounded	Ten /ten/
[ɑ:]	open	back	unrounded	Arm /ɑ:(r)m/
[ʌ]	open-mid	back	unrounded	Cup /kʌp/
[ɔ:]	open-mid	back	rounded	Saw /sɔ:/
[ɒ]	open	back	rounded	Got /gɒt/
[ɜ:]	open-mid	central	unrounded	Fur /fɜ:(r)/
[ə]	mid	central	unrounded	Ago /ə'gəʊ/
[u:]	close	back	rounded	Too /tu:/
[ʊ]	near-close	near-back	rounded	Put /pʊt/

What is a diphthong?

- “**Diphthong** is a vowel sound in which the tongue changes position to produce the sound of two vowels”.

(Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary)

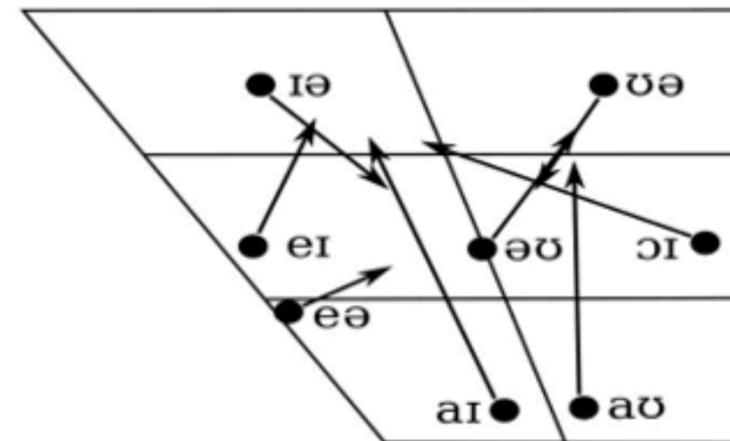
- “**Diphthong** is a single sound produced when two vowels (one dominant in duration and stress, and one reduced in duration and stress), are paired together in a sequence”.

(Linda I. House: Introductory Phonetics and Phonology).

Monophthongs

	Front		Central		Back	
	long	short	long	short	long	short
Close	i:	ɪ			u:	ʊ
Mid		e	ɜ:	ə	ɔ:	
Open		æ		ʌ	ɑ:	ɒ

- There are eight diphthongs commonly used in English. They are: /eɪ/, /aɪ/, /əʊ/, /aʊ/, /ɔɪ/, /ɪə/, /eə/, and /ʊə/.



The Phonetic Transcriptions of the English Diphthongs in Words:

Diphthong:	Word:	Phonetic Transcription:
[eɪ]	pay	/peɪ/
[aɪ]	five	/faɪv/
[əʊ]	home	/həʊm/
[aʊ]	now	/naʊ/
[ɔɪ]	join	/dʒɔɪn/
[ɪə]	near	/nɪə(r)/
[eə]	hair	/heə(r)/
[ʊə]	pure	/pjʊə(r)/

(1)

/aɪ/

- The /a/ is longer in duration and forms the nucleus of the diphthong, while /ɪ/ is shorter and unstressed.

- Time /taɪm/
- Fly /flaɪ/
- Tie /taɪ/

(2)

/aʊ/

- The /a/ is longer in duration and forms the nucleus of the diphthong, while the /ʊ/ is shorter and unstressed.

- Cow /kaʊ/
- Loud /laʊd/
- How /haʊ/

(3)

/ɔɪ/

- The /ɔ/ is longer in duration and forms the nucleus of the diphthong, while the /ɪ/ is shorter and unstressed.

- Boy /bɔɪ/
- Boil /bɔɪl/
- Oil /ɔɪl/

(4)

/eɪ/

- The /e/ is longer in duration and forms the nucleus of the diphthong, while the /ɪ/ is shorter and unstressed.
- Say /seɪ/
- Brain /breɪn/
- Game /geɪm/

(5)

/eə/

- The /e/ is longer in duration and forms the nucleus of the diphthong, while the /ə/ is shorter and unstressed.
- There /ðeə(r)/
- Bear /beə(r)/
- Share /ʃeə(r)/

(6)

/ɪə/

- The /ɪ/ is longer in duration and forms the nucleus of the diphthong, while /ə/ is shorter and unstressed.

- Here /hɪə(r)/
- Dear /dɪə(r)/
- Gear /gɪə(r)/

(7)

/ʊə/

- The /ʊ/ is longer in duration and forms the nucleus of the diphthong, while /ə/ is shorter and unstressed.
- Pure /pjʊə(r)/
- Purify /pjʊəɾɪfaɪ/
- You're /jʊə(r)/

(8)

/əʊ/

- The /ə/ is longer in duration and forms the nucleus of the diphthong, while /ʊ/ is shorter and unstressed.

- Toast /təʊst/
- Coke /kəʊk/
- Globe /gləʊb/



Thank you