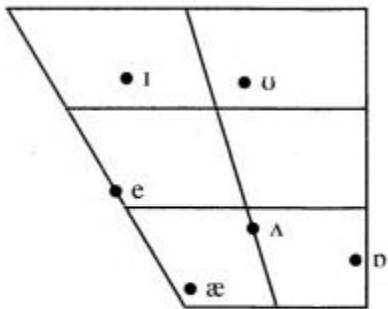


3.1.2 Short English vowels

. The symbols for these short vowels are: i, e, æ, ʌ, ɒ, u, ə Short vowels are only relatively short; as we shall see later, vowels can have quite different lengths in different contexts.



g. 5 English short vowels

To describe a vowel, there is a need for three main features: height of the tongue, part of the tongue, shape of lips.

/i/ it is close-mid, front, spread

/e/ open-mid, front, spread

/æ/ open, front, spread

/ə/ between close mid -open mid, central, neutral

/u/ close, back, rounded

/ɒ/ open-mid, back, rounded.

/ʌ/ open-mid, central, neutral.

Check the following transcribed words :

1 mad mæd	4 bet bet
2 mud mʌd	5 cut kʌt
3 bit bit	6 cot kɒt

7 put pʊt	10 man mæn
8 pot pɒt	11 fun fʌn
9 men men	12 fan fæn

Check the following contrasted short vowels:

i and e	e and æ	æ and ʌ
bit bet	hem ham	lack luck
tin ten	set sat	bad bud
fill fell	peck pack	fan fun
built belt	send sand	stamp stump
lift left	wreck rack	flash flush
ʌ and ɒ	ɒ and ʊ	
dug dog	lock look	
cup cop	cod could	
rub rob	pot put	
stuck stock	shock shook	
luck lock	crook crook	

Written exercise

- 3 Draw a vowel quadrilateral and indicate on it the correct places for the following English vowels:

a) æ	b) ʌ	c) ɪ	d) e
------	------	------	------
- 4 Write the symbols for the vowels in the following words:

a) bread	b) rough	c) foot	d) hymn
e) pull	f) cough	g) mat	h) friend

5. Transcribe the following words :

Bit, but, ask

3.1.3 English long vowels

The English long vowel sounds tend to be longer than the English short vowel sounds in similar contexts because the length of all English vowel sounds varies very much according to their contexts: "their contexts" refers here to:

1-the type of sound that follows them.

2-the presence and absence of stress.

The English long vowel sounds are: /i:/, /a:/, /u:/, /ɔ:/, /ə:/ (5 long vowel sounds in English).

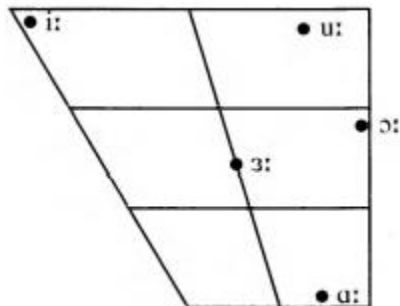


Fig. 6 English long vowels

Description of long vowels:

/i:/ close, front, spread

/u:/ close, back, rounded

/ɜ:/ open-mid, central, neutral.

/ɔ:/ open-mid, back, rounded

/ɑ:/ open, back, neutral.

Check the following transcribed words:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1 heard hɜ:d | 6 heart hɑ:t |
| 2 bean bi:n | 7 cord kɔ:d |
| 3 root ru:t | 8 beef bi:f |
| 4 hearth hɑ:θ | 9 rude ru:d |
| 5 caught kɔ:t | 10 earn ɜ:n |

Exercise 3.1.4

Check and compare short and long vowels:

i: and ɪ	ɑ: and ʌ	ɑ: and æ	
feel fill	calm come	part pat	
bead bid	cart cut	lard lad	
steel still	half huff	calm Cam	
reed rid	lark luck	heart hat	
bean bin	mast must	harms hams	
ɔ: and ɒ	u: and ʊ	ɜ: and ʌ	ɑ: and ɒ
caught cot	pool pull	hurt hut	dark dock
stork stock	suit soot	turn ton	part pot
short shot	Luke look	curt cut	lark lock
cord cod	woed wood	girl gull	balm bomb
port pot	fool full	bird bud	large lodge

3.1. 4 English Diphthongs

English Diphthongs

Diphthongs are sounds which consist of a movement or glide from one vowel to another. A vowel which remains constant and does not glide is called a **pure vowel**.

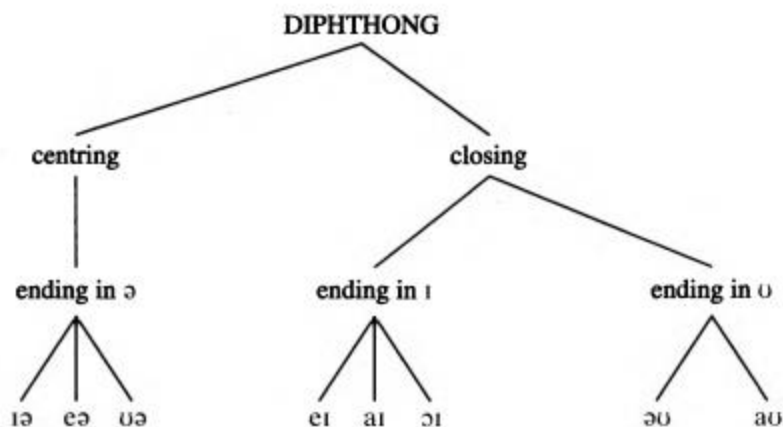


Fig. 7 Diphthongs

The **centering diphthongs** glide towards the ə (schwa) vowel, as the symbols indicate.

/ɪə/ is (example words: ‘beard’, ‘weird’, ‘fierce’) dear (/dɪə/) or fear (/fɪə/)

/eə/ (example words: ‘aired’, ‘cairn’, ‘scarce’) fair (/feə/) or care (/keə/)

/ʊə/ example words: ‘moored’, ‘tour’, ‘lure’) sure (/ʃʊə/) or cure (/kjʊə/)

The **closing diphthongs** glide toward /ɪ/:

/eɪ/ (example words: ‘paid’, ‘pain’, ‘face’) late (/leɪt/) or gate (/geɪt/)

/aɪ/ (example words: ‘tide’, ‘time’, ‘nice’) time (/taɪm/) or rhyme (/raɪm/)

/ɔɪ/ (example words: ‘void’, ‘loin’, ‘voice’) (/dʒɔɪn/) or coin (/kɔɪn/)

Two diphthongs glide towards /ʊ/, so that as the tongue moves closer to the roof of the mouth there is at the same time a rounding movement of the lips.

/əʊ/ (example words: ‘load’, ‘home’, ‘most’) globe (/ˈgləʊb/) or show (/ʃəʊ/)

/aʊ/ (example words: ‘loud’, ‘gown’, ‘house’) cow (/kaʊ/) or how (/haʊ/)

3.1.5 English Triphthongs

The most complex English sounds of the vowel type are the triphthongs. They can be rather difficult to pronounce, and very difficult to recognise. A triphthong is a glide from one vowel to another and then to a third, all produced rapidly and without interruption.

The triphthongs can be looked on as being composed of the five closing diphthongs described in the last section, with ə added on the end. Thus we get:

$$\begin{array}{ll} eɪ + ə = eɪə & əʊ + ə = əʊə \\ aɪ + ə = aɪə & aʊ + ə = aʊə \\ ɔɪ + ə = ɔɪə & \end{array}$$

Some example words are given here:

eɪə 'layer', 'player'	əʊə 'lower', 'mower'
aɪə 'liar', 'fire'	aʊə 'power', 'hour'
ɔɪə 'loyal', 'royal'	

Written exercises:

- 2 Write the symbols for the long vowels in the following words:
a) broad d) learn g) err
b) ward e) cool h) seal
c) calf f) team i) curl
- 3 Write the symbols for the diphthongs in the following words:
a) tone d) way g) hair
b) style e) beer h) why
c) out f) coil i) prey