



Subject: English

Aspect: Grammar

Topic: Diphthongs

Date: 24-08-2021

Name: .....

Grade/Sec.: VII.....

### **What are Diphthongs?**

The word "diphthong" comes from the Greek and means "two voices" or "two sounds."

In phonetics, a diphthong is a vowel in which there is a noticeable sound change within the same syllable. (A single or simple vowel is known as a monophthong.)

The process of moving from one vowel sound to another is called **gliding**, which is why another name for a diphthong is a **gliding vowel**.

**A diphthong is a sound made by combining two vowels, specifically when it starts as one vowel sound and goes to another, like the **oy** sound in **oil**.**

**If two vowels in a row are the same, as in **boot** or **beer**, then it's not a diphthong.**

### **Diphthong Examples**

**There are eight diphthongs that are generally agreed upon.**

1. **/aɪ/** Creates a speech sound similar to "eye" and usually includes the letters /i/, /igh/, and /y.  
Examples: my, cry, light, like
2. **/əʊ/** Creates a speech sound similar to "boat" and usually includes the letters /ow/, /oa/ and /o/.  
Examples: tow, loan, though
3. **/eɪ/** Creates a speech sound similar to "great" and usually includes the letters /ey/, /ay/, /ai/ and /a/.  
Examples: steak, pain, weight
4. **/aʊ/** Creates a speech sound similar to "ow!" and usually includes the letters /ou/ and /ow/.  
Examples: town, found, cow

5. /ɪə/ Creates a speech sound similar to “ear” and usually includes the letters /ee/, /ie/ and /ea/. Examples: leer, tear, pier
6. /eə/ Creates a speech sound similar to “air” and usually includes the letters /ai/, /a/, and /ea/. Examples: hair, lair, bear
7. /ɔɪ/ Creates a speech sound similar to “boy” and usually includes the letters /oy/ and /oi/. Examples: oil, coy, roil
8. /ʊə/ Creates a speech sound similar to “sure” and usually includes the letters /oo/, /ou/, /u/, and /ue/. Examples: cure, pure, cur

**Exercise:** Now refer to page no. 138 of your MCB and read the words given there.