

# Phonetics

First year

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## Complex Vowel Sounds

**Complex Vowels:** vowels which consist of more than one vowel gliding towards each other being combined together as one.

**Complex Vowels** are divided into two types:

1. **Diphthongs**
2. **Triphthongs**

- **Diphthongs** differ from **Triphthongs** in the number of vowel sounds combined together to make them and in the number of glides.
- In **Diphthongs** there are *two vowel sounds* and *one glide*.
- In **Triphthongs**, there are *three vowel sounds* and *two glides*.

**1. Diphthongs:** are a type of vowel sounds consisting of two vowels produced as one.

**Or:** vowels which consist of a movement (glide) from one vowel to another.

**2. Triphthongs:** are a type of vowel sounds consisting of three vowels produced as one.

**Or:** vowels which consist of a movement (glide) from one vowel to another then to a third.

### Types of Diphthongs:

#### 1- Centring Diphthongs:

- Diphthongs gliding towards the central area.
- They start from vowels /ɪ/, /ʊ/ or /e/ and end in the central area in vowel /ə/.

#### 2- Closing Diphthongs:

- Diphthongs gliding towards the close-front or close-back areas.
- They either start from vowels /e/, /æ/ or /ɔ:/ and end in the close-front area in vowel /ɪ/.
- Or start from vowels /ɑ:/ and /ə/ and end in the close-back area in vowel /ʊ/.

## Triphthongs:

- Vowel sounds which consist of three vowels combined together and produced as one vowel sound.
- Each triphthong consists of the **three** symbols.
- They consist of one of the five closing diphthongs plus vowel **/ə/**:

**/eɪ/ + /ə/ = /eɪə/**

**/aɪ/ + /ə/ = /aɪə/**

**/ɔɪ/ + /ə/ = /ɔɪə/**

**/aʊ/ + /ə/ = /aʊə/**

**/əʊ/ + /ə/ = /əʊə/**