

# Phonetics

First year

Department of English

College of Education for Human Sciences

University of Basra

Instructor: **Dr. Wasan Alsiraih**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Triphthongs

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

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

**Triphthongs:** there are five triphthongs, each of them is a combination of a closing diphthong + vowel /ə/:

/eɪ/ + /ə/ = /eɪə/

/aɪ/ + /ə/ = /aɪə/

/ɔɪ/ + /ə/ = /ɔɪə/

/aʊ/ + /ə/ = /aʊə/

/əʊ/ + /ə/ = /əʊə/

**/eɪə/:** a triphthong, the starting point is in the mid-front area of vowel /e/, then glides towards the close-front area of vowel /ɪ/, then glides to the mid-centre area of vowel /ə/;

the lips are spread for the first two vowels then change to neutral for the third vowel; e.g.: **player** /pleɪə/.

**/aɪə/**: a triphthong, the starting point is in the open-front area of vowel /æ/, then glides towards the close-front area of vowel /ɪ/, then glides to the mid-centre area of vowel /ə/; the lips change from neutral to spread then to neutral again; e.g.: **higher** /haɪə/.

**/ɔɪə/**: a triphthong, the starting point is in the mid-back area of vowel /ɔ:/ then glides towards the close-front area of vowel /ɪ/ then glides to the mid-centre area of vowel /ə/; the lips change from rounded to spread then to neutral; e.g.: **lawyer** /lɔɪə/.

**/aʊə/**: a triphthong, the starting point is in the open-back area of vowel /ɑ:/ then glides towards the close-back area of vowel /ʊ/ then glides to the mid-centre area of vowel /ə/; the lips change from neutral to rounded then to neutral again; e.g.: **hour** /aʊə/.

**/əʊə/**: a triphthong, the starting point is in the mid-centre area of vowel /ə/ then glides towards the close-back area of vowel /ʊ/ then glides again to the mid-centre area of vowel /ə/; the lips change from neutral to rounded then to neutral again; e.g.: **lower** /ləʊə/.