

Triphthongs

.1. Definition

As we have mentioned previously, the difference between pure vowels, diphthongs, and triphthongs lies in the extent, to which we can notice a change in the quality during their articulation. When no noticeable change is perceived, the sound is termed as pure vowel /e/. If there is evident change in quality, one thinks of gliding vowel. If two auditory elements are involved, the sound is referred to as a diphthong /eɪ/; however if three elements are involved resulting in two glides, we call the sound as a triphthong /eɪə/

.2. Triphthong Symbols: (eɪə aɪə ɔɪə aʊə əʊə)

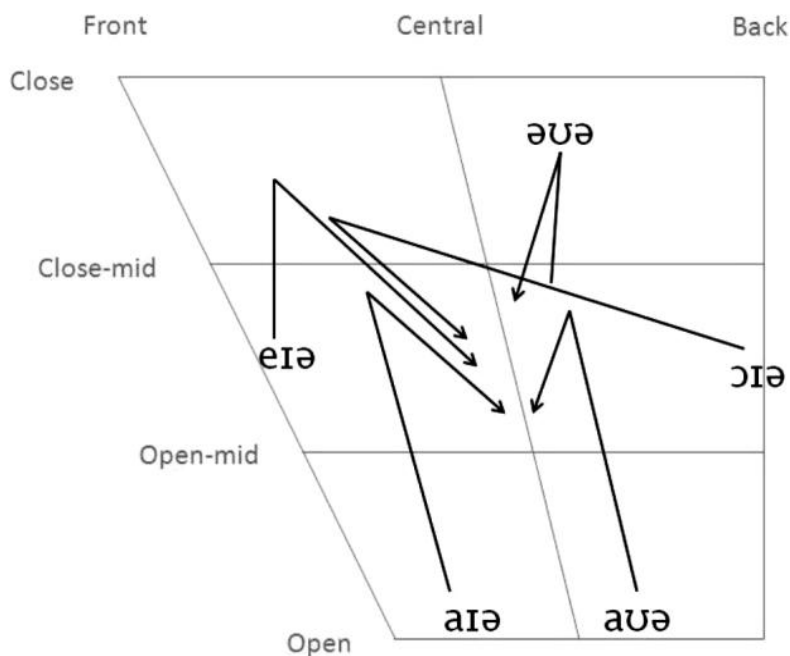
/aɪə/: Liar /laɪə/ wire /waɪə/ fire /faɪə/ hire /haɪə/ dryer /draɪə/

/eɪə/: Player /pleɪə/ layer /leɪə/ sprayer /spreɪə/ prayer /preɪə/

/ɔɪə/: royal /rɔɪə/ lawyer /lɔɪə/ loyal /ləɪə/ employer /ɪmˈplɔɪə/

/əʊə/: hour /aʊə/ flower /flaʊə/ shower /ʃaʊə/ coward /kaʊəd/

/əʊə/: lower /ləʊə/ slower /sləʊə/ knower /nəʊə/



English Triphthongs

Practice : Transcribe the following words.

- Hour
- Fire
- Cure
- Player
- Our
- Lower
- Year
- Buyer
- Flyer
- Higher
- Fewer
- Power
- Oasis
- Inchoate
- Croatia
- Slower
- Mower
- Shower
- Stereo
- Romeo
- Radio
- Rodeo