

## Diphthongs and rhyming words

A diphthong is a combination of two vowel sounds pronounced together, for example, /eɪ/ as in *play* /pleɪ/ and /əʊ/ as in *cold* /kəʊld/.

The first vowel sound is always longer than the second. There are eight diphthongs in English, but one of them is hardly ever used. Many native speakers use /ɔ:/ instead of /ʊə/. For example, *poor* is usually pronounced /pɔ:/ instead of /puə/.

- 1 60 Study the sound symbols. Listen and write the example word for each diphthong. Then listen again and repeat.

1 /eɪ/ .....	5 /eə/ .....
2 /aɪ/ .....	6 /ʊə/ .....
3 /ɔɪ/ .....	7 /əʊ/ .....
4 /ɪə/ .....	8 /aʊ/ .....

- 2 Read words 1–7 aloud and write the correct diphthong for each word. Then match words 1–7 to a rhyming word a–g.

1 /...../ crowd	a grey
2 /...../ phone	b hair
3 /...../ try	c here
4 /...../ day	d high
5 /...../ noise	e loud
6 /...../ wear	f shown
7 /...../ year	g toys

- 3 61 Listen and check your answers to exercise 2. Then listen again and repeat.

- 4 62 Complete the sentences with a rhyming pair of words in exercise 2. Then listen and check.

- The child had some ..... that made a lot of .....
- It was a cloudy ....., and the sky was .....
- My grandparents have ..... that they hate their new .....
- The boys wanted to ..... to jump very .....
- There was a big ....., so the party was .....
- It's been a ..... since we moved .....
- I'll do my ..... and find something nice to .....

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