

### 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 /pʊə/.

**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.

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

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