

TEACHING ENGLISH VOWEL SOUNDS TO UZBEK LEARNERS

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ABSTRACT

Phonetics is a branch of linguistics that studies sounds in a language. Phonetics describes these sounds using the symbols of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), it was founded in 1888. It invented in order to have a system in which there was a one-to-one correspondence between each sound in language and each phonetic symbol. Someone who knows the IPA knows how to pronounce any word in any language. The main purpose of this section is to acquire knowledge and skills of correct English pronunciation of words and sentences, as well as to develop the ability to hear and understand the speech of native speakers.

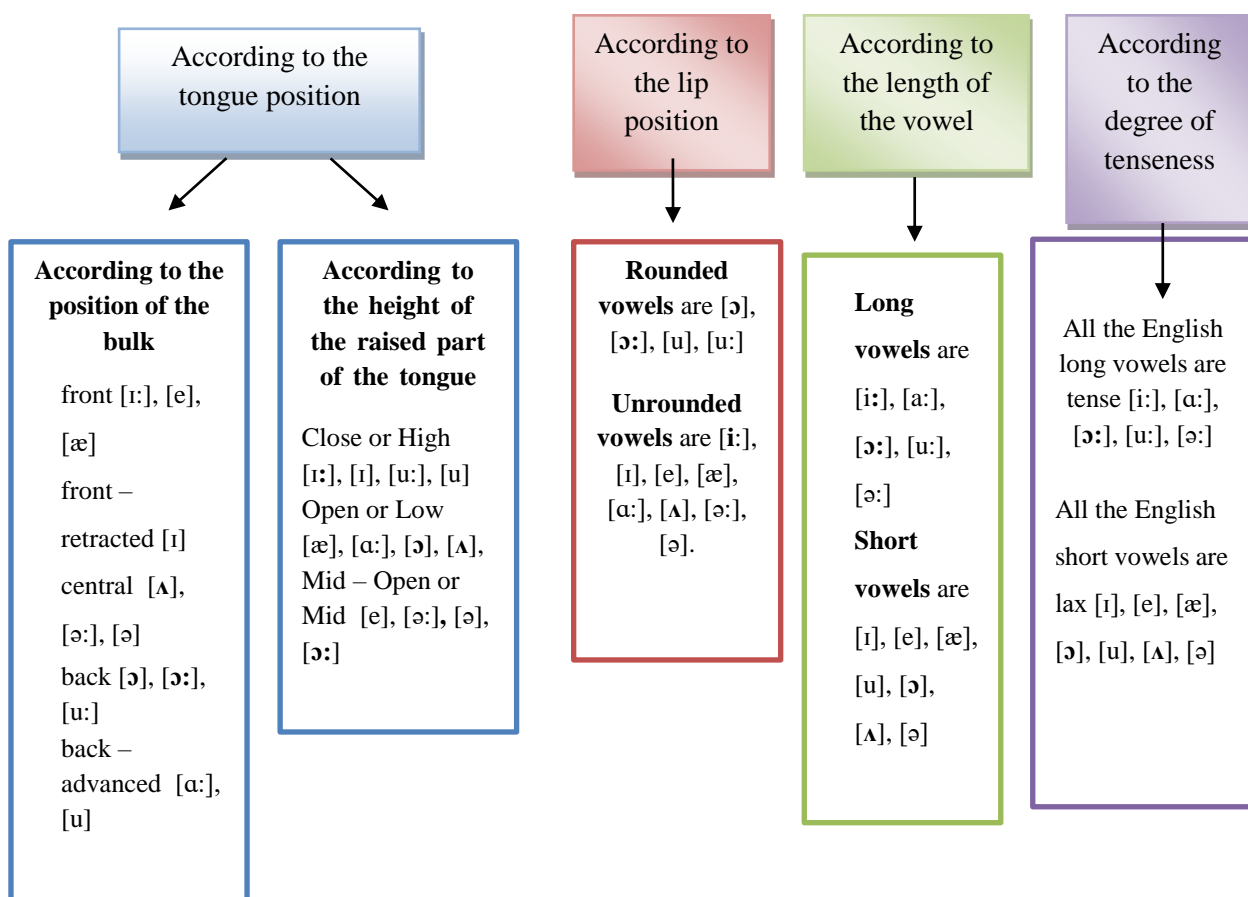
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Phonetics studies speech sounds and it's a branch of linguistics. Theoretical phonetics of the English language explores the close relationship between oral, internal and written speech. But phonetics as a whole examines not only the linguistic function, but also the material side of its object: the work of the pronunciation apparatus, as well as the acoustic characteristics of sound phenomena and their perception by native speakers. This is the practical phonetics of the English language. It is not by chance that we mention the theoretical and practical components. The fact is, sounds as non-material phenomena are those elements of the language system that allow words and sentences to be embodied in a material sound form.

Language can perform its function as the most important means of human intercourse only as a language of sounds, because spoken words in all languages consist of speech sounds. English sounds divide into 2 parts: vowels and consonants. A vowel is a voiced sound produced in the mouth with no obstruction to the air stream. Vowels are sounds produced by the free passage of air in the mouth. They are classified according to whether they are pronounced at the front, in the middle or at the back of the mouth, and according to the degree of opening or closing of this

one. The English vocalic system is very different from Uzbek language. The English vowel phonemes are divided into three large groups: monophthongs, diphthongs and triphthongs. A monophthong is a pure (unchanging) vowel sound. The word monophthong is taken from ancient Greek word and it means “single sound”. There are 12 monophthongs in English. They are as follows: [i:], [ɪ], [e], [æ], [ɑ:], [ɒ], [ɔ:], [u], [ʊ:], [ʌ], [ə:], [ə]. The English monophthongs may be classified according to the following principles:

Monophthongs and their classifications



Short Vowels

- e** Went, intend, send, letter.
- æ** Cat, hand, nap, flat, have.

Long vowels

- i:** Need, beat, team.
- ɜ:** Nurse, heard, third, turn.

ʌ	Fun, love, money, one, London, come.	ɔ:	Talk, law, bored, yawn, jaw.
ʊ	Put, look, should, cook, book, look.	u:	Few, boot, lose, gloomy, fruit, chew.
ɒ	Rob, top, watch, squat, sausage.	ɑ:	Fast, car, hard, bath.
ə	Alive, again, mother.		
i	It, sit, fiddle		

The five long vowels are different from the seven short vowels not only in length but also in quality. If we compare some similar pairs of long and short vowels, for example *i* with *i:*, or *u* with *u:*, or *ae* with *a:*, we can see distinct differences in quality (resulting from differences in tongue shape and position, and lip position) as well as in length. For this reason, all the long vowels have symbols which are different from those of short vowels; you can see that the long and short vowel symbols would still all be different from each other even if we omitted the length mark, so it is important to remember that the length mark is used not because it is essential but because it helps learners to remember the length difference.

(a) [i:] – [ɪ]	(b)	[ɪ] – [e]
peal – pill		win – when
deed – did		did – dead
seat – sit		sit – set
(c) [e] – [æ]	(d)	[æ] – [ʌ]
men – man		fan – fun
head – had		bad – bud
guess – gas		hat – hut
(e) [ʌ] – [ɑ:]	(f)	[ɑ:] – [ɔ:]
done – darn		far – four
bud – bard		darn –

cut – cart

(g) [ɑ] – [ɔ:]

donkey – dawn

cod – cord

spot – sport

(i) [u] – [u:]

full – fool

hood – food

book – boot

(h)

dawn

part – port

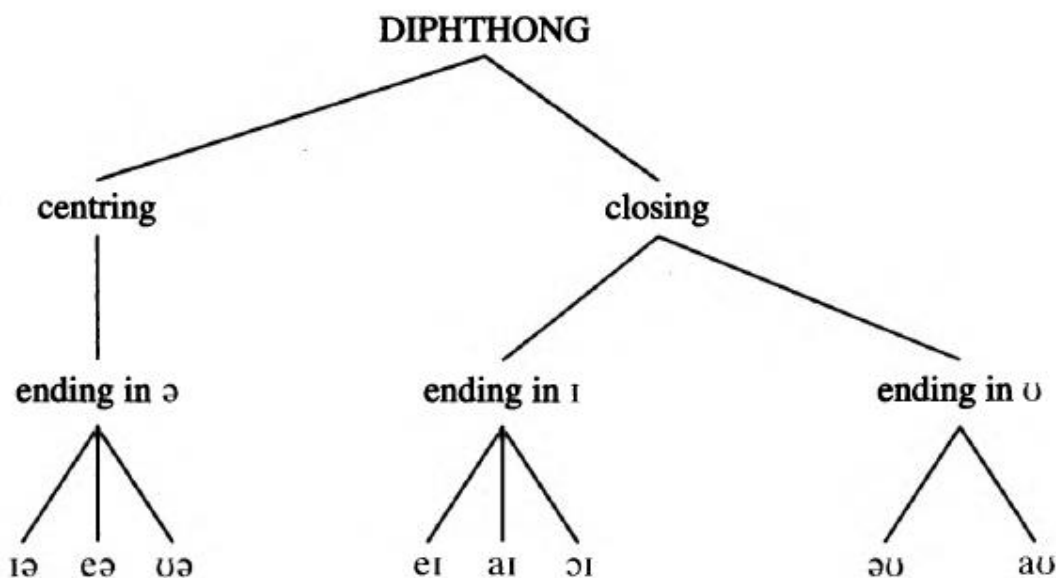
[ɔ:] – [ə:]

four – fur

torn –turn

caught –curt

A diphthong is a complex sound consisting of two vowel elements pronounced so as to form a single syllable. The first element of an English diphthong is called the nucleus (means root). The second element is called the glide (it is weak). There are eight diphthongs in English. They are: [eɪ], [uə], [aɪ], [aʊ], [ɔɪ], [ɪə], [eə], [əʊ]. The English diphthongs may be classified according to the following principles:



As Peter Roach said that: “The centring diphthongs glide towards the ə (schwa) vowel, as the symbols indicate. The closing diphthongs have the characteristic that they all end with a glide towards a closer vowel. Because the second part of the diphthong is weak, they often do not reach a position that could be called close. The important thing is that a glide from a relatively more open towards a relatively closer vowel is produced”.

Diphthong Vowels

ɪə	Near, ear, clear, tear, beer, fear
eə	Hair, there, care, stairs, pear
ʊə	Tour, cure, pure, doer
eɪ	Face, space, rain, case, eight
ɔɪ	Joy, employ, toy, coil, oyster.
aɪ	My, sight, pride, kind, flight
əʊ	No, don't, stones, alone, hole
aʊ	Mouth, house, brown, cow, out

A triphthong describes the combination of three vowel sounds. The most complex English sounds of the vowel type are the triphthongs. They can be rather to pronounce and very difficult to recognize. A triphthong is a glide from one vowel to another and then to a third, all produced rapidly and without interruption.

$eɪ + ə = eɪə$ $əʊ + ə = əʊə$

$aɪ + ə = aɪə$ $aʊ + ə = aʊə$

$ɔɪ + ə = ɔɪə$

The principal cause of difficulty for the foreign learner is that in present-day English the extent of the vowel movement is very small, except in very careful pronunciation. Because of this, the middle of the three vowel qualities of the triphthong can hardly be heard and the resulting sound is difficult to distinguish from some of the diphthongs and long vowels. To add to the difficulty, there is also the problem of whether a triphthong is felt to contain one or two syllables.

$eɪə$ 'layer', 'player' $əʊə$ 'lower', 'mower'

$aɪə$ 'liar', 'fire' $aʊə$ 'power', 'hour'

$ɔɪə$ 'loyal', 'royal'

We will not go through a detailed description of each triphthong. This is partly because there is so much variation in the amount of vowel movement according to how slow and careful the pronunciation.

Summarizing all above mentioned, vowels are classified by how high or low the tongue is, if the tongue is in the front or back of the mouth, and whether or not the lips are rounded. Teaching English vowel sounds to the foreigners is one of the interesting and useful theme inside of language learners.

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