

PG-1: EF-G

PRACTICE CUEING FOUR DIPHTHONGS

A diphthong occurs in American speech when two vowels join together in the same spoken syllable to form a single phoneme. Four of these diphthongs are viewed as two vowels joined together:

/ay/ as in "eight" is cued as /e/ (chin) plus /i/ (throat)

/oi/ as in "oil" is cued as /aw/ (chin) plus /i/ (throat)

/ie/ as in "aisle" is cued as /ah/ (side) plus /i/ (throat)

/ow/ as in "owl" is cued as /ah/ (side) plus /oo/ (throat)

Obviously the visual differences among these diphthongs is achieved both by lip movements as well as cue movements. Each of these diphthongs is spelled in many different ways in English although they *sound* the same:

/ay/ = *day, prey, great, neighbor, wait, and fame*

/oi/ = *loin, joy, Freud*

/ie/ = *height, Hi, pine, type, pie, try, aisle, eye, I, and island*

/ow/ = *bough, now, sauerkraut*

A quick comparison of "eight" and "height" should be proof enough -- and "enough" doesn't rhyme with "cough" and "though"!

Remembering that the second vowel in the diphthong is always cued with the [5 handshape](#), practice cueing (and saying) the diphthongs listed below:

"pie" [1-s,5-t] "poi" [1-c,5-t] "pay" [1-c,5-t] "pow" [1-s,5-t]
 "tile" "toil" "tale" "towel" "heil" "Hoyle" "hail" "howl" "sign" "soil" "sail" "sound"
 "abide" "avoid" "evade" "avowed" "allied" "alloy" "allay" "aloud" "try" "tray"
 "Troy" "trowel" "dye" "doily" "day" "down" "thyroid" "typhoid" "hyoid"
 "greyhound"

Try these sentences for carry-over practice with these diphthongs:

"That's the fly in the ointment." "You boys are too noisy! Quiet, now!" "Though April showers may come your way..." "They bring the flowers that bloom in May." "I'd enjoy a ride around the house." "Put your toys away now." "I'll wait for you downtown." "Time and tide wait for no man." "The boys stayed in their hideout." "Buy now, pay later." "For crying out loud!" "It isn't raining rain, you know, it's raining violets." "How much of a noise annoys an oyster?" "Enjoy your broiled trout."

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