

Lecture eight

Diphthongs

In all of the **RP** and **GA** vowel sounds we have considered thus far, the articulators remain more or less in the same position throughout the articulation of the vowel. This means that the vowel quality remains more or less constant. That kind of vowel is a monophthong. However, there are vowel sounds in which this is not the case

This kind of vowel sound, called a diphthong, entails some kind of change of position of the articulators during its production, and thus a change in the vowel quality produced. A diphthong is a vowel whose quality changes within a syllable

A diphthong is not simply a sequence of two vowels. For instance, in both the RP and the GA pronunciations of the word **seeing** [si:lɪŋ], the vowel [i:] is followed by the vowel [ɪ], but the resulting sequence is not a diphthong, because the [i:] and the [ɪ] are not in the same syllable: seeing has two syllables, **the first of which ends in [i:] and the second of which begins with [ɪ].**

The following are called diphthongs.

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- 1- /aɪ/. Examples: **sigh, rye, bide, kite, site, bite, price** .
- 2- /eɪ/. Examples: **say, ray, bayed, face** .
- 3- /ɔɪ/. Examples: **boy, soy, roy, buoyed, choice** .
- 4- /aʊ/. Examples **how, now, loud, cow, mouth** .
- 5- əʊ. Examples **Go, load, home, most, coat** .

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Lecture nine

.RP and GA short Vowels

1- There is considerable variation in the vowel sounds uttered by speakers of different accents of English. We will begin with two particular accents; the first is Received Pronunciation (**RP**) and General American (**GA**).

RP is the accent often referred to as the prestige accent in British society and associated with the speech of the graduates of the English public schools. It is thus defined largely in terms of the social class of its speakers.

The term **GA** is an idealized over a group of accents whose speakers inhabit a vast proportion of the United States. It excludes eastern accents such as the New York City accent, and southern accents (such as spoken in Texas). For speakers of **RP** and **GA**, the vowels in **peep** and **pip** differ in several respects, one of which is vowel length. In **peep** it is a long vowel and in **pip** it is a short vowel.

The vowel in **pip** is transcribed as [ɪ]. so the word is transcribed as [pɪp]. [ɪ] is high front unrounded vowel, it is less high and less front than the vowel in **peep**.

The words **pit**, **pet**, **pat**, **pot**, **putt** and **put** can be used to illustrate the short vowels, since these words differ in pronunciation only with respect to the vowel. **EXAMPLES:** **ɪ** as in **pit** [pɪt], **ɪ** as in **fill**, **mid**, **e** as in **pet** [pet], **led**, **sell** [sel], **æ** as in **pat** [pæt], **ʌ** as in **putt** [pʌt] or **love**, **ʊ** as in **put** [pʊt], **full**, **ɒ** as in **pot** [pɒt], **doll**, **song**,

- ★ **ɪ** as in **pit** [pɪt], **fill**, **mid**,
- ★ **e** as in **pet** [pet], **led**, **sell** [sel],
- ★ **æ** as in **pat** [pæt],
- ★ **ʌ** as in **putt** [pʌt] or **love**,
- ★ **ʊ** as in **put** [pʊt], **full**,
- ★ **ɒ** as in **pot** [pɒt], **doll**, **song**,

An example of vowels to the Examination

▲ The vowel in the word (pat) is pronounced as:

- a) **e**. **b) æ.** C) **ʊ.** D) **e.**