

English Phonetics and Phonology

Lecture 2 VOWELS

Phonetic criteria

Phonetic (=articulatory) criteria: 2 positions of the tongue

A. Vertical position of the tongue

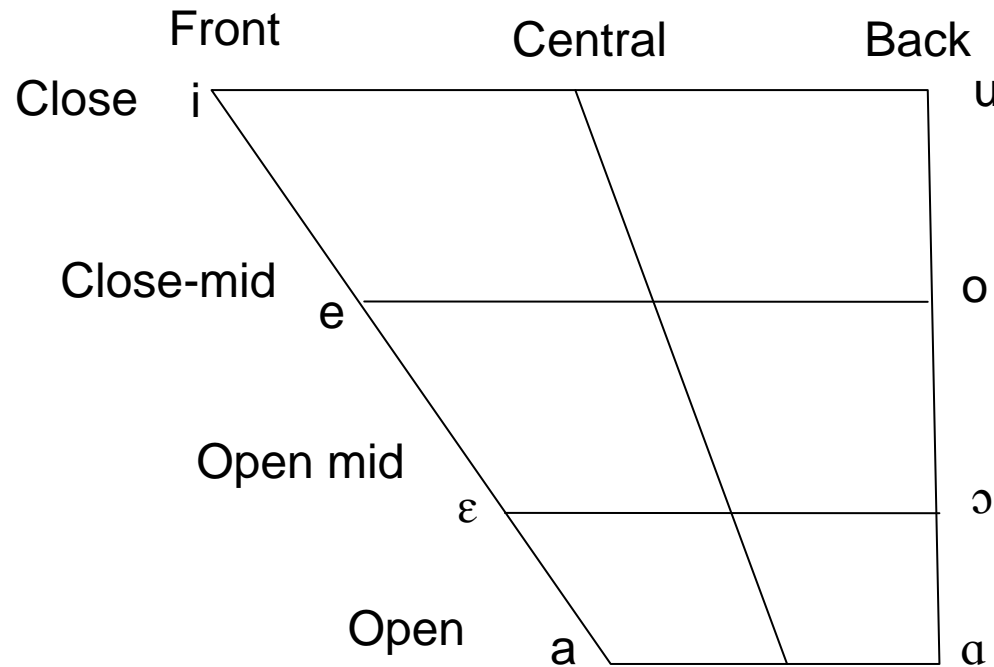
- a) Close
- b) Close-mid
- c) Open-mid
- d) Open

B. Horizontal position of the tongue

- a) Front
- b) Central
- c) Back

Cardinal vowels

Cardinal vowels (= extreme pronunciation used for comparison)



English vowels

20 vocalic sounds – 7 short monophthongs

ɪ, e, æ, ʌ, ɒ, ʊ, ə

- 5 long monophthongs

ɪː, ɜː, ɑː, ɔː, uː

- 8 diphthongs

ʊə, ɪə, eə, aɪ, ɔɪ, eɪ, əʊ, aʊ

Short vowels

ɪ = close, front, spread

e = mid-close, front, spread

æ = mid-open, front, spread

ʌ = open-mid, central, neutral

ə = middle, central, neutral

ɒ = open(-mid), back, slightly rounded

ʊ = close, back, rounded

Long vowels

i: close, front (more close and front than the short ɪ)

ɜ: middle, central vowel, neutral

ɑ: open, back, neutral

ɔ: mid-close, back (more close than the short ɒ)

u: close, back (more close than the short ʊ)

DIPHTHONGS(GLIDES)

- a) Centring (=ending in /ə/) ʊə, ɪə, eə
- b) Closing
 - ɪ -diphthongs aɪ, ɔɪ, eɪ
 - ʊ -diphthongs əʊ, aʊ

Please note the diphthong ʊə displays a strong tendency to monophthongization in modern English (poor /pʊə/ or /pɔ:/

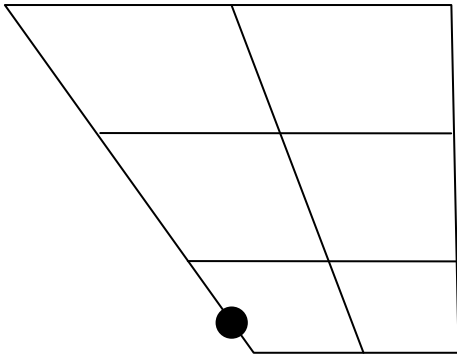
Triphthongs

- Generated from closing diphthongs only
 - 1) $eɪ + ə = eɪə$ (layer, player)
 - 2) $aɪ + ə = aɪə$ (liar, fire)
 - 3) $ɔɪ + ə = ɔɪə$ (loyal, royal)
 - 4) $əʊ + ə = əʊə$ (lower, mower)
 - 5) $aʊ + ə = aʊə$ (power, hour)

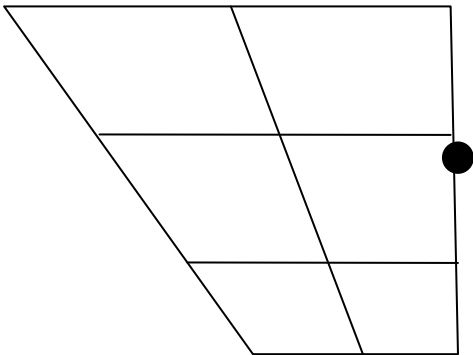
Exercises

- Identify the following sounds:

1)

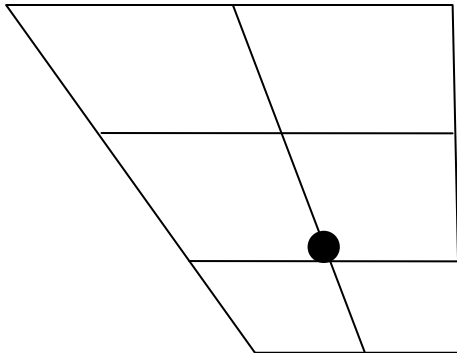


2)

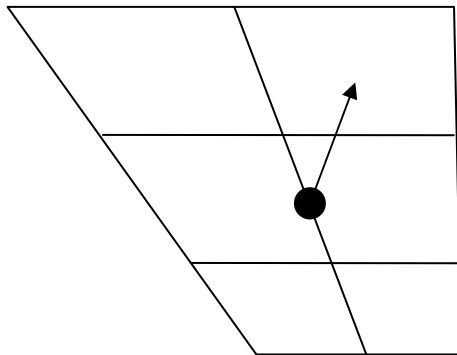


Exercises-cont.

3)

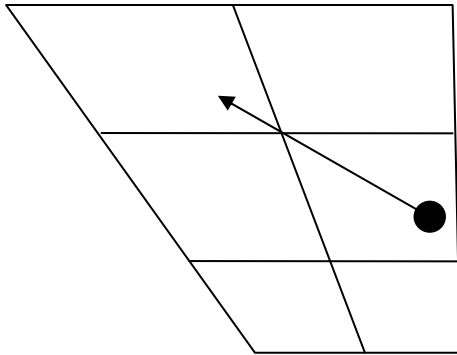


4)



Exercises-cont.

5)



6)

