

Name _____

Date _____

Diphthongs

Reading/discussion

Vowels are 'old hat', we learnt about them years ago. But here is a new take on vowels – the **diphthong**. Do you remember what a **syllable** is? It is a single, uninterrupted sound which forms all or part of a word. We can break a word down into its separate sounds, or syllables, for example, paper has two syllables: pa/per. Well, a diphthong is two **vowel sounds** in one syllable.

The two vowel sounds are blended but usually (not always) both sounds can be heard as one slides into the other, so that your lips and tongue have to change position as you speak. 'Oi' is an example of a diphthong. Try saying 'boil'. What is your tongue doing? What are your lips doing? Watch a friend saying the same word.

Here are some examples of diphthongs:

oi, oy: boil, toy.

au, aw: sauce, yawn.

ou, ow: out, cow.

You will notice that the combinations are not all vowels. Instead they form vowel sounds. Let's see how many diphthongs you can think of.

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Activities:

A. Brainstorming

In groups see how many words containing diphthongs you can think of in 5 minutes. Each group, or set of groups, can look at one diphthong sound: oi/oy; au/aw; and ou/ow. Put the lists up on the wall and then spend another 5 to 10 minutes walking around and adding words to the lists belonging to the other groups.

B. Writing and reading diphthongs

Still in your groups, each person write a short paragraph using as many words containing diphthongs as possible. When you have finished, take turns reading your paragraphs to the other members of the group. Let each group vote on the best paragraph and at the end of the lesson these can be read out to the rest of the class.

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Answer Sheet

Activity A

Some examples of diphthongs under the different sound sets, there are many more:

Oi/oy	Au/aw	Ou/ow
boil, boy, coil, coin, destroy, enjoy, join, joy, loyal, noise, oil, oink, point, poison, royal, spoil, voice	astronaut, audio, because, cause, claw, crawl, daughter, draw, faucet, fault, fraud, haul, jaw, pause, raw, saucer, saw, straw, taught, yawn	about, allow, bow, clown, cow, found, frown, growl, house, how, loud, mouse, mouth, now, ouch, out, owl, pouch, vowel, wow

Activity B

This is a creative activity and, as such, has no right or wrong answer. The children should, however, include as many diphthongs as possible in their paragraphs and sound them out correctly when reading.