

## Introducing the Phonemic Chart - Diphthongs

### "I am just a poor boy"

*Level – Beginner +*

*Age – Young Adult / Adult*

*Activity focus – Introducing the phonemic chart and in particular the phonetic symbols used to represent diphthongs.*

*Time – 30 mins*

I use this activity to introduce the phonetic symbols used to represent diphthong sounds such as;

/iə/ as in ear

/ei/ as in face

/ʊə/ as in poor

/ɔɪ/ as in boy

/əʊ/ as in nose

/eə/ as in hair

/aɪ/ as in eye

/aʊ/ as in mouth

Students have found it helpful in remembering the symbols used.

*N.B. To insert phonetic symbols into your worksheets in Microsoft Word you can use – INSERT / SYMBOL / LUCIDA SANS UNICODE. However you need to search through to find the symbols. To avoid doing this every time cut and paste the required symbols into a separate file for future use.*

## Procedure

Stick a copy of the phonemic chart on the board in the corner. To see the phonemic chart you could follow the following link:

<http://www.developingteachers.com/phonology/sounds.htm>

Draw a picture of a face on the board (Try and make the face look like a boy and a little bit sad). Ask the students is it a boy or a girl (Elicit boy)

Draw an arrow to the face and write "boy" draw another arrow and write "face"

Ask the students to label each part of the face on the board i.e. mouth, nose, eye(s), ear(s), hair. Practice the pronunciation of these words with the group to see if the students have any problems with pronunciation and any of the sounds you may need to work on in later lessons.

You have now introduced the students to seven of the eight diphthong sounds represented by the phonemic chart. Now point to the phonemic chart and transcribe each of the words on the labeled face on the board as follows; keep referring to the phonemic chart as you transcribe each word.

hair /heə/	mouth /maʊθ/
nose /nəʊz/	ear(s) /iə(z)/
eye(s) /ai(z)/	boy /bɔɪ/
face /feɪs/	

Give students time to copy down the transcriptions carefully.

Ask the students if they think the boy is poor or rich (elicit poor because of sad face). Write poor on the boy and transcribe /pʊə/.

The students have now been introduced to the phonetic symbols for the 8 sounds and have copied them down.

Now rub away the picture and words but leave the transcriptions on the board, see if the students can recognize the words from the transcriptions.

Rub away the transcriptions and then write them on the board again in a different order, see if the students can still recognize the words.

Finally you could think of any words that rhyme with the above the words and see if the students can transcribe them.

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December 2003