

Letter	Some typical values	Examples
<aa>	[ɑɪ], [aɪ]	<i>baas</i> 'base', n. and adj.
<ai>	[aj], [ej], [aɪ]	<i>dai</i> 'day', <i>þai</i> 'they', <i>stain</i> 'stone'
<au>	[ɑw]	<i>clau</i> 'claw', <i>drau</i> 'draw'
<ea>	[ɛɪ], [eɪ]	<i>sea</i> 'sea', <i>beand</i> 'being'
<ee>	[ɛɪ] or [eɪ]	<i>been</i> 'be', <i>eet</i> 'eat'
<ei>	[ej], [aj], [eɪ]	<i>dei</i> 'day', <i>þei</i> 'they', <i>theif</i> 'thief'
<eo>	[ɛɪ]	<i>feond</i> 'fiend'
<eu>	[ɛw], [ew]	<i>reume</i> 'realm', <i>deu</i> 'dew'
<ie>	[ɛɪ], [iʔ]	<i>trie</i> 'tree', <i>fiet</i> 'feet', <i>fier</i> 'fire'
<iu>	[iw]	<i>niuwe</i> 'new', <i>bliu</i> 'blue'
<oa>	[ɔɪ]	<i>woa</i> 'woe', <i>toa</i> 'toe'
<oi>	[oj]	<i>boi(e)</i> 'boy', <i>boil(en)</i> 'boil'
<oo>	[oɪ], [ɔɪ]	<i>good</i> 'good', <i>stoon</i> 'stone'
<ou>	[uɪ], [ow]	<i>hous</i> 'house', <i>stou(e)</i> 'stow'
<ui>	[uj] (AN)	<i>puint</i> 'point', <i>puisun</i> 'poison'

Figure 7.3 Doubling of vowels and some digraph spellings in ME

Of relevance to the spelling of PDE is that for the value [uɪ] the <ou> spelling was 'borrowed' from Anglo-Norman, where <ou> was the normal digraph for [uɪ]. In the course of the adaptation the <ow> spelling was preferred word-finally and when the [uɪ] is adjacent to a 'vertical strokes' letter such as <l, n>; otherwise the spelling is kept as <ou>; compare OE <*mī*>, <*tūn*> with ME *now*, *town*; OE <(a)*būtan*>, <*mūþ*> with ME *about(e)*, *mouth*. As noted above, <u> continued in use for [u], occasionally also [uɪ], but the introduction of <ou, ow> 'freed' <u> for the representation of the sound written <y> in OE (see 7.3).

glides as [ɪ] for the front glide and [ʊ] for the back glide can be debated. We have kept these for PDE, but we switch to [j] and [w] in the context of the 'new' ME diphthongs because of the clear association between the consonantal sources and the new glides.