

Home assignment

2. Diphthongs; phonetics of vowels; /a/ vs. /ɛ/, /əw/ vs. /o:/'

1. *Transcribe the following words. (You may want to check your solutions at <http://seas3.elte.hu/cube/>.)*
 - a. these, those, through, choice, shout, WiFi, change
 - b. without, avoidable, easy, international, photo, accident, Fridays, agreeing

2. *Answer the following questions referring to the words given below.*

hat hot hit hut

- a. Which word(s) contain(s) a front vowel?
- b. Which word(s) contain(s) a low vowel?
- c. Which word(s) contain(s) a back vowel?
- d. Which word(s) contain(s) a high-mid vowel?
- e. Which word(s) contain(s) a low back vowel?

3. *Practicing headache-causing vowel contrasts*

- a. */ɛ/ vs. /a/*

Pronounce the following words and decide whether they contain the phoneme /ɛ/ or /a/. Then try in each case if you can get a minimal pair by changing the vowel from /ɛ/ to /a/ or the other way round. If so, give this new word in ordinary spelling.

(Hint: spelling is quite a reliable guide in this respect – see the summary in the slides of lesson 2 as to how these phonemes are regularly spelled.)

~~had~~, axe, send, land, sad, shell, dead, latter, banned/band, gas, then, end, sacks, gem, man, spanned

/ɛ/	/a/
	<i>had</i> ,

Possible minimal pairs: *had* – *head*,

So, the rule again:

- While / . . . / is always spelled with a single **a**,
- / . . . / is regularly spelled with **e** or **ea**.

b. /əw/ vs. /o:/

Your task here is the same as in the previous exercise.

coat, bone, poke, drone, oh, low, load, moaning, hall, walk, saw, jaw,
shore, torn, nor, snore

/əw/	/o:/
coat,	

Possible minimal pairs: *coat* – *caught/court*,

Finally, we can conclude that

- when the spelling is (or begins with) the letter **a** (e.g. *wall*, *taaght*, *law*), we always pronounce / . . . /;
- when the spelling is (or begins with) **o** (e.g. *phone*, *boot*, *soul*, *blow*), we pronounce / . . . /,
 - except when an **r** follows (e.g. *form*, *boord*, *source*), in which case only / . . . / can occur.