

# *No diphthong, no problem*

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*vowels of current British English (seas3.elte.hu/cube)*

	—C	—#	—V
1. ɪ ɛ ʌ ɔ ʊ	✓	✗	✗
2. ɪː ɛː ɔː ɒː əː ɐ	✓	✓	✗
3. ɪj ɛj ɔj ɒw əw ʊw	✓	✓	✓

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i → ɪ	a → ʌ before {ɪ, j}
e → ɛ	o → ɔ except before {ɪ, j}
u → ʊ	

## *the diphthongs*

ij bee	
ej bay	
aj buy	aw bow
oj boy	
	uw two
	əw toe

## *the diphthongs*

<b>pj</b> pew	
<b>bj</b> beauty	
<b>fj</b> few	
	<b>tw</b> twin
	<b>dw</b> dwell
	<b>θw</b> thwack

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## *the diphthongs*

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aj buy	aw bow
oj boy	ow ball
uj	uw two
əj	əw toe

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uj two	uw bull
əj toe	əw dull

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**A:** it does not: **ij ej aj oj** are VC sequences, epenthesis is in CC

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**A:** no epenthesis in homorganic clusters like **wl**, cf *film*, which is homorganic in BrE, not in IrE



## *a distributional gap*

glidophilic environments

#\_V yet, wet

C\_V cue, quit

V\_́V beyond, away

glidophobic environments

V\_# —

V\_C —

́V\_V (Dewi, vilayet)

## *a distributional gap?*

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lion, doyen, gowan, boa, fuel

**Q:** why are glides so rare after a stressed V?

**A:** they are not rare: eg *neon* níjon, *crayon* kréjən, *lion* lájən,  
*doyen* dójən, *gowan* gáwən, *boa* béwə, *fuel* fjúwəl

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glidophilic environments

#\_V yet, wet

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~~glidophobic environments~~

V\_# my, too

V\_C take, coat

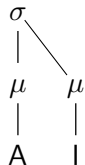
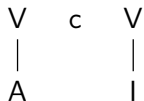
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in fact, glides occur word finally and preconsonantly too, eg  
*take* tejk, *my* maj, *coat* kəwt, *too* tuw

# *representations*



- ▶ English diphthongs pattern with long vowels, hence they are represented similarly (as VV)

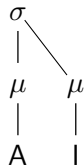
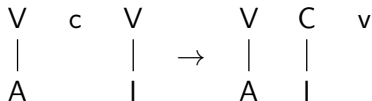
# *representations*

V    c    V  
|        |  
A        I

$\sigma$   
|    \  
 $\mu$     $\mu$   
|    |  
A    I

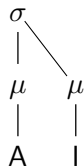
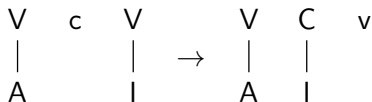
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- ▶ a glide is a nonsyllabic vowel (a high vowel is not a syllabic consonant(!), eg \*l<sub>l</sub>, \*m<sub>m</sub> vs ji, wu, ij, uw; l<sub>~</sub>əl vs i<sub>~</sub>əj)

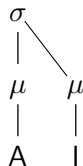
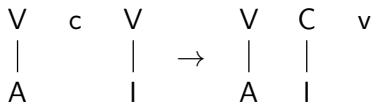
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- ▶ the 2nd half of a diphthong is nonsyllabic, ie it is a glide, C!



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- ▶ the 2nd half of a diphthong is nonsyllabic, ie it is a glide, C!
- ▶ what are the empirical consequences of the above difference?

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- ▶ so stress is not a very good argument for [ $\sigma$  VV] vs [ $\sigma$  VC]

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	A C C E N T		
	A	B	C
<i>litter</i> lítə	✓	✓	✓
<i>McBearty</i> -ítij	✓	✓	✗
<i>litre</i> líjtə	✓	✓	✗
<i>linter</i> líntə	✓	✓	✗
<i>filter</i> fíltə	✓	✗	✗
<i>lister</i> lístə	✗	✗	✗
<i>lictor</i> líktə	✗	✗	✗

✓ = t lenites

✗ = t does not lenite

# *vowels of current British English*

if diphthong = vowel + glide, then

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*a detail: the FOOT/CURE vowel*

u is rare: *uj?*, \**up*, \**ub*, \**uv*, \**uθ*, \**uǰ*, \**uɟ*, *ug* only in *sugar*

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	near	square	start	nurse	cure	poor	force
"RP"	iə	ɛə	ɑ:	ə:	uə	oə/ɔ:	

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    - ▶ [ɥ:] (=u:, ie *kju:*) or

	near	square	start	nurse	cure	poor	force
“RP”	iə	ɛə	ɑ:	ə:	uə		oə/ɔ:
split 1	i:	e:	a:	ə:	u:		o:

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    - ▶ NURSE (=ə:, ie  $kjə:$ )

	near	square	start	nurse	cure	poor	force
“RP”	iə	ɛə	ɑ:	ə:	uə		oə/ɔ:
split 1	i:	e:	a:	ə:	u:	o:	
split 2	i:	e:	a:	ə:		o:	

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	near	square	start	nurse	cure	poor	force
“RP”	iə	ɛə	ɑ:	ə:	uə		oə/c:
split 1	i:	e:	a:	ə:	u:	o:	
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## a detail: the FOOT/CURE vowel

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  - ▶ in no-split accents CURE and FORCE merge context-free (ie *kjo:*)

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no split	i:	e:	ɑ:	ə:	o:		

# *vowels of current British English*

i	e	a	ə	o	u
iː	eː	aː	əː	oː	(uː)



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i	e	a	ə	o	u
i:	e:	a:	ə:	o:	(u:)

*note 1*

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i	e	a	ə	o	u
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- ▶ accent C has lírə vs líjtə, bá rə vs bá:tə, etc

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i	e	a	ə	o	u
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- ▶ ie both j and : behave as “consonants”

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## note 2

- ▶ : and r, : and h are in complementary distribution
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- ▶ historically most long vowels come from vowel+r or vowel+h, eg fort fo:t < fort, fought fo:t < foht

# *vowels of current British English*

if long vowel = vowel + consonant, then

	—C	—#	—V
1. <i>i e a o u</i>	✓	✗	✗
2. <i>ə</i>	✓	✓	✗



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trap/price/mouth/start/bath/palm,  
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2. strut/comma/letter/goat/nurse(/cure)

## *vowels of current British English*

the apparent diversity of the vowel system results from the combination of 6 short monophthongs and 3 consonants

i bit	ij bee	iw bill	ih beer
e bet	ej bay	ew bell	eh bear
a bat	aj buy	aw bow	ah bar
o bot	oj boy	ow ball	oh boar
u put		uw boo	(uh bureau)
ə but		əw bow	əh bird

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  - ▶ **ə**: eg *abbot* **ábət**, *fellow* **féləw**, *fellah* **félə** (not **—j/ʒ/ʃ/ŋ**)

*thank*

- ▶ YOU
- ▶ OTKA #104897