Diphthongs

1. Monophthongs and diphthongs

◆ monophthongs
  a simple, single sound
  [ a ]  father  [ o ]  bought

◆ diphthongs
  a sequence of two sounds \( \rightarrow \) vowel + glide
  [ a+j ]  bite  [ o+j ]  boy  [ a+w ]  bout

2. English Diphthongs

  [ aj ]  bite, tight, eye, buy
  [ o+j ]  boy, toy, coy, buoy
  [ aw ]  bout, down, gown, mouth

3. Diphthongization of English tense vowels

◆ tense front vowels followed by a short [ j ] glide

  [ ij ]  beat, beet  sometimes written as  [ i j ]
  [ ej ]  bait, gate  sometimes written as  [ e j ]

◆ tense back vowels followed by a short [ w ] glide

  [ ow ]  know, boat  sometimes written as  [ o w ]
  [ uw ]  boot, mood  sometimes written as  [ u w ]
dialect differences

British Received Pronunciation (RP)

- all tense vowels are diphthongs
  
  [ ej ]  bait, Kate, mate  
  [ ij ]  beat, neat, feed  
  [ ow ]  mow, low, dough

- low rounded back vowel
  
  hot, pot, bomb