

## The English Diphthongs [ɪq], [eɪ], [Vɪ]

The so-called centring diphthongs start at different sounds [ɪ], [e], [V] and immediately proceed in the direction of [q] (in the position at the end of the word).

**Diphthong [ɪq].** The English diphthong [ɪq] starts as a short non-labialized front retracted close vowel [ɪ], which has very nearly the same quality as the Ukrainian [И] and immediately proceeds in the direction of [q] (fig. 2.53, 2.54).

The correct pronunciation of the English [ɪq] may be acquired by starting from the Ukrainian [И].



Fig. 2.53.  
Lip-position of English [ɪq]  
(beginning)



Fig. 2.54.  
Lip-position of English [ɪq]  
(end)

Many students whose native language is Ukrainian have a tendency:

1. to make the nucleus of [ɪq] too close; and this mispronunciation can be easily rectified by starting from the Ukrainian [И];

2. to replace the glide of the diphthong [ɪq] by Russian or Ukrainian [А] or [Е].

This is a most frequent mistake and special care must be taken to avoid it.

Students should pronounce the glide as a very weak sound, paying special attention to keep the tongue flat, which is decisive in this case.

**Diphthong [eq].** The English diphthong [eq] starts as [e], a short lax non-labialized front half-open vowel of wide variety and immediately proceeds in the direction of [q].

To acquire the correct pronunciation of the nucleus of the diphthong [eq] one may start at the Ukrainian [E] in the word *nace* [ПІАЦÉ].

The lips are slightly spread for the nucleus and move to a neutral position during the glide (fig. 2.55, 2.56).

As a rule, the beginning of this diphthong causes no difficulty as the nucleus is rather wide and is about the same as the Ukrainian [E].

Students whose native language is Ukrainian often make mistakes replacing the glide by the Ukrainian [A]. To avoid this mistake the same precautions are to be taken as with the articulation of the diphthong [lq].



Fig. 2.55.  
Lip-position of English [eq]  
(beginning)



Fig. 2.56.  
Lip-position of English [eq]  
(end)

**Diphthong [Vq].** The English diphthong [Vq] starts as a short labialized back-advanced close vowel [V] and immediately proceeds in the direction of the English [q].

In pronouncing the nucleus of the diphthong [Vq] the lips are slightly rounded. In pronouncing the glide the lips become neutral and the distance between them somewhat increases (fig. 2.57, 2.58).



Fig. 2.57.  
Lip-position of English [Vq]  
(beginning)



Fig. 2.58.  
Lip-position of English [Vq]  
(end)

The correct pronunciation of the diphthong may be acquired without much difficulty, provided that care is taken not to protrude the lips.

Some students whose native language is Ukrainian have a tendency:

1. to protrude the lips, while pronouncing the diphthong and care should be taken not to add the slightest trace of lip protrusion;
2. to replace the glide by the Ukrainian [A] or [E].