

## The English Diphthongs [qV], [aV]

The English diphthongs [qV], [aV] begin as the sounds [q] and [a] respectively and immediately proceed in the direction of the English [V].

**Diphthong [qV].** The English diphthong [qV] begins as [q] which is more close and advanced than the Ukrainian [O] and immediately proceeds in the direction of the English [V]. It should be noted that the glide is very weak and short as in all English diphthongs. It should also be mentioned that the tongue only approaches the [V]-position so that the end of the glide is not a distinct [V]. In pronouncing the English [qV] the lips start from a slight rounding and rather a large opening. At the end of the articulation the lips are considerably rounded, forming a rather small oval opening (fig 2.65, 2.66).



Fig. 2.65.  
Lip-position of English [qV]  
(beginning)



Fig. 2.66.  
Lip-position of English [qV]  
(end)

To pronounce the English diphthong [qV], one should start from the position of the speech organs for the Ukrainian [O] between palatalized consonants. This is immediately followed by the retraction of the tongue to a position resembling that of the Ukrainian [Y].

Care should be taken to avoid the slightest trace of lip protrusion. The lips must be flat.

Many students whose native language is Ukrainian have a tendency:

1. to make the nucleus of [qV] too back and wide, that's why taking into consideration the articulation of the English [P], one should move the tongue forward and raise it a little higher;
2. to make the glide [V] too distinct and strong;
3. to protrude the lips, but to avoid this, one should keep the lips slightly rounded without any trace of protrusion.

Sometimes the students go to extremes and make the nucleus of [qV] too front or replace it by the Ukrainian [E]. But these mistakes are rarely made.

**Diphthong [aV].** The English diphthong [aV] begins as the front open [a] and proceeds in the direction of the English [V] (fig 2.67, 2.68). The lips are neutral. The nucleus of [aV] resembles the Ukrainian [A] between palatalized consonants.

Under the influence of the following [V] the nucleus becomes more retracted than in [a].

Care should be taken not to protrude the lips.



Fig. 2.67.

Lip-position of English [aV]  
(beginning)



Fig. 2.68.

Lip-position of English [aV]  
(end)

Students are often inclined to make the nucleus of the diphthong [aV] too back. To avoid this mistake the tongue is to be moved forward, the tip of the tongue coming close to the front lower teeth.

Table 2.2.

English diphthongs

Glide \ Nucleus	Front	Back
	l-glide diphthongs (front)	eɪ, aɪ
ɥ-glide diphthongs (centring)	ɪɥ, eɥ	ʊɥ
V-glide diphthongs (back)	aV	qV