

DICTION EXERCISES

Phonetics

[In linguistics](#), phonetics is the study of the sound of words. It's actually the study that defines certain syllables as consonants, vowels, and diphthongs. Understanding these terms and applying them to song lyrics can be a great way of using phonetics to your advantage. Try breaking down the lyrics to a song you're learning into syllables and identify each type. This gives you a good idea of how each syllable is supposed to sound as you're singing it and also how you could change certain syllables to fit the sound you're looking for.

[International Phonetic Alphabet](#)

A diphthong, also known as a gliding vowel, is a combination of **two adjacent vowel** sounds within the same syllable. Technically, a diphthong is a vowel with two different targets: that is, the tongue moves during the pronunciation of the vowel.

Diphthong Examples: pie, sky, ride, cow, loud, now, toy, boy

PROPER VOWELS

- **Ah as in apple (central placement)**
- **Ay as in sky - diphthong "ah and ee" (central to forward placement)**
- **Eh as in air (near front placement)**
- **Ee as in bee (front placement)**
- **Oo as in room (back placement)**
- **Oh as in orange (back placement)**

Vocal Mouth Exercises:

All of these is dependent on good breath support

- Lip Trills
- Humming
- Practice a tongue twister a day
- Tee, Tay, Tah, Toh, Too
- Mee, may, mah, mo, moo
- Kee, Kay, Kah, Koh, koo
- Dah, Day, Dee, Doh, Doo
- Nah, Nay, Nee, Noh, Noo
- Doo, bee, doo, bee, doo, bee, doo
- B,D,B,D,B,D,B,D,B,D