# *British English Vowels*

## *Fewer than you would think*

Péter Szigetvári

Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest
szigetvari@elte.hu

GPRT '15, Vienna, 2015-05-02

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

| | _C | _# | _V |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. ɪ ɛ a ɔ ʉ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| 2. ɪː ɛː ɑː oː əː ə | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| 3. ɪj ɛj ɑj oj aw əw ʉw | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

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

| | _C | _# | _V |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. ɪ ɛ a ɔ ʉ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| 2. ɪː ɛː ɑː oː əː ə | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| 3. ɪj ɛj ɑj oj aw əw ʉw | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

*1.* kit, dress, trap, lot, foot

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

| | _C | _# | _V |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. ɪ ɛ a ɔ ʉ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| 2. ɪː ɛː ɑː oː əː ə | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| 3. ɪj ɛj ɑj oj aw əw ʉw | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

1. kit, dress, trap, lot, foot
2. near, square, start/bath/palm, force/north/thought/cure, nurse, strut/comma/letter

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

| | _C | _# | _V |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. ɪ ɛ a ɔ ʉ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| 2. ɪː ɛː ɑː oː əː ə | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| 3. ɪj ɛj ɑj oj aw əw ʉw | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

1. kit, dress, trap, lot, foot
2. near, square, start/bath/palm, force/north/thought/cure, nurse, strut/comma/letter
3. fleece, face, price, choice, mouth, goat, goose

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

| | _C | _# | _V |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. i e a o u | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| 2. ɪː ɛː ɑː oː əː ə | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| 3. ɪj ɛj ɑj oj aw əw ʉw | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

1. kit, dress, trap, lot, foot
2. near, square, start/bath/palm, force/north/thought/cure, nurse, strut/comma/letter
3. fleece, face, price, choice, mouth, goat, goose

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

| | _C | _# | _V |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. i e a o u | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| 2. iː eː aː oː əː ə | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| 3. ɪj ɛj ɑj oj aw əw ʉw | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

1. kit, dress, trap, lot, foot
2. near, square, start/bath/palm, force/north/thought/cure, nurse, strut/comma/letter
3. fleece, face, price, choice, mouth, goat, goose

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

| | _C | _# | _V |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. i e a o u | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| 2. iː eː aː oː əː ə | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |
| 3. ij ej aj oj aw əw uw | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

1. kit, dress, trap, lot, foot
2. near, square, start/bath/palm, force/north/thought/cure, nurse, strut/comma/letter
3. fleece, face, price, choice, mouth, goat, goose

# *the diphthongs*

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

# *the diphthongs*

| | |
|---|---|
| pj pew | |
| bj beauty | |
| fj few | |
| | tw twin |
| | dw dwell |
| | θw thwack |

# *the diphthongs*

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

# *the diphthongs*

| | |
|---|---|
| ij bee | iw bill |
| ej bay | ew bell |
| aj buy | aw bow |
| oj boy | ow ball |
| | uw two |
| | əw toe |

# *the diphthongs*

| | |
|---|---|
| ij bee | iw bill |
| ej bay | ew bell |
| aj buy | aw bow |
| oj boy | ow ball |
| uj | uw two |
| əj | əw toe |

# *the diphthongs*

| | |
|---|---|
| ij bee | iw bill |
| ej bay | ew bell |
| aj buy | aw bow |
| oj boy | ow ball |
| uj two | uw bull |
| əj toe | əw dull |

# *epenthesis*

- *film* film (Irish E filəm)

# *epenthesis*

- *film* film (Irish E filəm)
- *known* nəwn (rarely nəwən)

# *epenthesis*

- *film* film (Irish E filəm)
- *known* nəwn (rarely nəwən)
- *feel* fijəl, *fail* fejəl, *file* fajəl, *foil* fojəl

# *epenthesis*

- *film* film (Irish E filəm)
- *known* nəwn (rarely nəwən)
- *feel* fijəl, *fail* fejəl, *file* fajəl, *foil* fojəl
- *fear* fijə(r), *fire* fajə(r), *flour* flawə(r)
  cf *fearing* fijriŋ/fiːriŋ, *firing* fajriŋ/faːriŋ, *floury* flawrij/flaːrij

# *epenthesis*

- *film* film (Irish E filəm)
- *known* nəwn (rarely nəwən)
- *feel* fijəl, *fail* fejəl, *file* fajəl, *foil* fojəl
- *fear* fijə(r), *fire* fajə(r), *flour* flawə(r)
  cf *fearing* fijriŋ/fiːriŋ, *firing* fajriŋ/faːriŋ, *floury* flawrij/flaːrij
- the narrower the sonority gap, the more likely epenthesis is

# *epenthesis*

- *film* film (Irish E filəm)
- *known* nəwn (rarely nəwən)
- *feel* fijəl, *fail* fejəl, *file* fajəl, *foil* fojəl
- *fear* fijə(r), *fire* fajə(r), *flour* flawə(r)
  cf *fearing* fijriŋ/fiːriŋ, *firing* fajriŋ/faːriŋ, *floury* flawrij/flaːrij
- the narrower the sonority gap, the more likely epenthesis is

*Q:* why should epenthesis occur between a V and a C?

# *epenthesis*

- *film* film (Irish E filəm)
- *known* nəwn (rarely nəwən)
- *feel* fijəl, *fail* fejəl, *file* fajəl, *foil* fojəl
- *fear* fijə(r), *fire* fajə(r), *flour* flawə(r)
  cf *fearing* fijriŋ/fiːriŋ, *firing* fajriŋ/faːriŋ, *floury* flawrij/flaːrij
- the narrower the sonority gap, the more likely epenthesis is

*Q:* why should epenthesis occur between a V and a C?

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

# *epenthesis*

- *film* film (Irish E filəm)
- *known* nəwn (rarely nəwən)
- *feel* fijəl, *fail* fejəl, *file* fajəl, *foil* fojəl
- *fear* fijə(r), *fire* fajə(r), *flour* flawə(r)
  cf *fearing* fijriŋ/fiːriŋ, *firing* fajriŋ/faːriŋ, *floury* flawrij/flaːrij
- the narrower the sonority gap, the more likely epenthesis is

*Q:* why should epenthesis occur between a V and a C?

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

*Q:* why is there no epenthesis in *fool, foal, foul*?

# *epenthesis*

- *film* film (Irish E filəm)
- *known* nəwn (rarely nəwən)
- *feel* fijəl, *fail* fejəl, *file* fajəl, *foil* fojəl
- *fear* fijə(r), *fire* fajə(r), *flour* flawə(r)
  cf *fearing* fijriŋ/fiːriŋ, *firing* fajriŋ/faːriŋ, *floury* flawrij/flaːrij
- the narrower the sonority gap, the more likely epenthesis is

*Q:* why should epenthesis occur between a V and a C?

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

*Q:* why is there no epenthesis in *fool, foal, foul*?

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

# *a distributional gap*

| glidophilic environments | | glidophobic environments | |
|---|---|---|---|
| #__V | yet, wet | V__# | — |
| C__V | cue, quit | V__C | — |
| V__V́ | beyond, away | V́__V | (Dewi, vilayet) |

# *a distributional gap?*

| glidophilic environments | | glidophobic environments | |
|---|---|---|---|
| #__V | yet, wet | V__# | — |
| C__V | cue, quit | V__C | — |
| V__V́ | beyond, away | V́__V | (Dewi, vilayet) |

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

# *a distributional gap?*

| glidophilic environments | | glidophobic environments? | |
|---|---|---|---|
| #__V | yet, wet | V__# | — |
| C__V | cue, quit | V__C | — |
| V__V́ | beyond, away | V́__V | Dewi, vilayet, neon, crayon, 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* báwə, *fuel* fjúwəl

# ~~*a distributional gap*~~

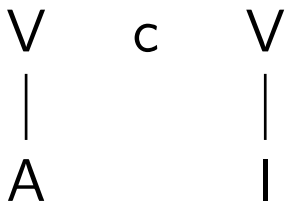
| glidophilic environments | | ~~glidophobic environments~~ | |
|---|---|---|---|
| #__V | yet, wet | V__# | my, too |
| C__V | cue, quit | V__C | take, coat |
| V__V́ | beyond, away | V́__V | Dewi, vilayet, neon, crayon, lion, doyen, gowan, boa, fuel |

*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* bə́wə, *fuel* fjúwəl

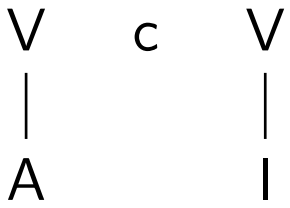
in fact, glides occur word finally and preconsonantally too, eg *take* tejk, *my* maj, *coat* kəwt, *too* tuw

# *representations*



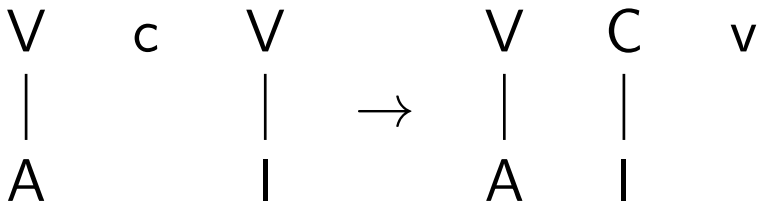

- English diphthongs pattern with long vowels, hence they are represented similarly (as VV)

# *representations*



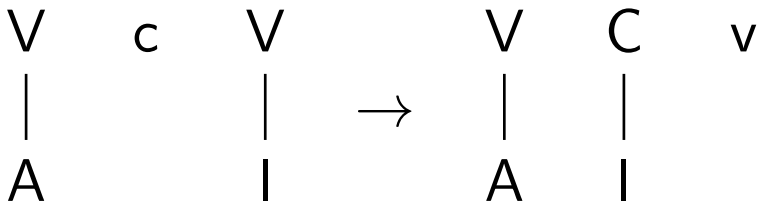

- English diphthongs pattern with long vowels, hence they are represented similarly (as VV)
- but English diphthongs also pattern with VC sequences

# *representations*



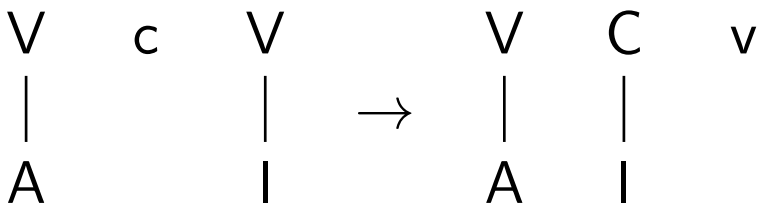

- English diphthongs pattern with long vowels, hence they are represented similarly (as VV)
- but English diphthongs also pattern with VC sequences
- a glide is a nonsyllabic vowel (a high vowel is not a syllabic consonant(!), eg *ll̩, *mm̩ vs ji, wu, ij, uw; l∼əl vs i⁄əj)

# *representations*




- English diphthongs pattern with long vowels, hence they are represented similarly (as VV)
- but English diphthongs also pattern with VC sequences
- a glide is a nonsyllabic vowel (a high vowel is not a syllabic consonant(!), eg *l̩l, *m̩m vs ji, wu, ij, uw; l∼əl vs i⁄əj)
- the 2nd half of a diphthong is nonsyllabic, ie it is a glide, C!

# *representations*




- English diphthongs pattern with long vowels, hence they are represented similarly (as VV)
- but English diphthongs also pattern with VC sequences
- a glide is a nonsyllabic vowel (a high vowel is not a syllabic consonant(!), eg *l̩l, *m̩m vs ji, wu, ij, uw; l∼əl vs i⁄əj)
- the 2nd half of a diphthong is nonsyllabic, ie it is a glide, C!
- what are the empirical consequences of the above difference?

# *stress*

- English stress seems to treat [$_\sigma$ VV] and [$_\sigma$ VC] differently

# *stress*

- English stress seems to treat [$_\sigma$ VV] and [$_\sigma$ VC] differently
  1. __# in verbs: *agree* əgríj vs *habit* hábit

# *stress*

- English stress seems to treat [$_\sigma$ VV] and [$_\sigma$ VC] differently
  1. __# in verbs: *agree* əgríj vs *habit* hábit
  2. __C# in nonverbs: *arcade* aːkéjd vs *stipend* stájpend

# *stress*

- English stress seems to treat [$_\sigma$ VV] and [$_\sigma$ VC] differently
  1. __# in verbs: *agree* əgríj vs *habit* hábit
  2. __C# in nonverbs: *arcade* aːkéjd vs *stipend* stájpend
  3. __V in nonverbs: *European* jóːrəpíjən vs *regimen* rédʒimən

# *stress*

- English stress seems to treat [$_\sigma$ VV] and [$_\sigma$ VC] differently
  1. __# in verbs: *agree* əgríj vs *habit* hábit
  2. __C# in nonverbs: *arcade* aːkéjd vs *stipend* stájpend
  3. __V in nonverbs: *European* jóːrəpíjən vs *regimen* rédʒimən
- but English stress is lexical

# *stress*

- English stress seems to treat [$_\sigma$ VV] and [$_\sigma$ VC] differently
  1. __# in verbs: *agree* əgríj vs *habit* hábit
  2. __C# in nonverbs: *arcade* aːkéjd vs *stipend* stájpend
  3. __V in nonverbs: *European* jóːrəpíjən vs *regimen* rédʒimən
- but English stress is lexical
  1. *carry* kárij, *omit* əwmít

# *stress*

- English stress seems to treat [$_\sigma$ VV] and [$_\sigma$ VC] differently
  1. __# in verbs: *agree* əgríj vs *habit* hábit
  2. __C# in nonverbs: *arcade* aːkéjd vs *stipend* stájpend
  3. __V in nonverbs: *European* jóːrəpíjən vs *regimen* rédʒimən
- but English stress is lexical
  1. *carry* kárij, *omit* əwmít
  2. *decade* dékejd, *defence* dəféns

# *stress*

- English stress seems to treat [$_\sigma$ VV] and [$_\sigma$ VC] differently
  1. __# in verbs: *agree* əgríj vs *habit* hábit
  2. __C# in nonverbs: *arcade* aːkéjd vs *stipend* stájpend
  3. __V in nonverbs: *European* jóːrəpíjən vs *regimen* rédʒimən
- but English stress is lexical
  1. *carry* kárij, *omit* əwmít
  2. *decade* dékejd, *defence* dəféns
  3. *Cyclopean* sajkláwpijən, *dilemma* dajlémə

# *stress*

- English stress seems to treat [$_\sigma$ VV] and [$_\sigma$ VC] differently
  1. __# in verbs: *agree* əgríj vs *habit* hábit
  2. __C# in nonverbs: *arcade* aːkéjd vs *stipend* stájpend
  3. __V in nonverbs: *European* jóːrəpíjən vs *regimen* rédʒimən
- but English stress is lexical
  1. *carry* kárij, *omit* əwmít
  2. *decade* dékejd, *defence* dəféns
  3. *Cyclopean* sajkláwpijən, *dilemma* dajlémə
- so stress is not a very good argument for [$_\sigma$ VV] vs [$_\sigma$ VC]

# *vowels of current British English*

if diphthong = vowel + glide, then

| | __C | __# | __V |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. i e a o u | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| 2. iː eː aː oː əː ə | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |

# *vowels of current British English*

if diphthong = vowel + glide, then

| | __C | __# | __V |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. i e a o u | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| 2. iː eː aː oː əː ə | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |

*1.* kit/fleece, dress/face, trap/price/mouth, lot/choice, foot/goose

# *vowels of current British English*

if diphthong = vowel + glide, then

| | __C | __# | __V |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. i e a o u | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| 2. iː eː aː oː əː ə | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |

1. kit/fleece, dress/face, trap/price/mouth, lot/choice, foot/goose
2. near, square, start/bath/palm, force/north/thought/cure, nurse, strut/comma/letter/goat

# *a detail: the* FOOT/CURE *vowel*

- u is rare: uj?, *up, *ub, *uv, *uθ, *uð, *uʤ, ug only in *sugar*

# *a detail: the* FOOT/CURE *vowel*

- u is rare: uj?, *up, *ub, *uv, *uθ, *uð, *uʤ, ug only in *sugar*
- the *poor–cure* split: for some speakers CURE splits into

# *a detail: the* FOOT/CURE *vowel*

- u is rare: uj?, *up, *ub, *uv, *uθ, *uð, *udʒ, ug only in *sugar*
- the *poor–cure* split: for some speakers CURE splits into
  1. [ʉː] after palatals or merges with NURSE (eg *cure, jury, sure*)

# *a detail: the* FOOT/CURE *vowel*

- u is rare: uj?, *up, *ub, *uv, *uθ, *uð, *udʒ, ug only in *sugar*
- the *poor–cure* split: for some speakers CURE splits into
  1. [ʉː] after palatals or merges with NURSE (eg *cure, jury, sure*)
  2. oː elsewhere merging with FORCE (eg *poor, tour, gourmand*)

# *a detail: the* FOOT/CURE *vowel*

- u is rare: uj?, *up, *ub, *uv, *uθ, *uð, *udʒ, ug only in *sugar*
- the *poor–cure* split: for some speakers CURE splits into
  1. [ʉː] after palatals or merges with NURSE (eg *cure, jury, sure*)
  2. oː elsewhere merging with FORCE (eg *poor, tour, gourmand*)
- [ʉː]=uː

# *a detail: the* FOOT/CURE *vowel*

- u is rare: uj?, *up, *ub, *uv, *uθ, *uð, *udʒ, ug only in *sugar*
- the *poor–cure* split: for some speakers CURE splits into
  1. [ʉː] after palatals or merges with NURSE (eg *cure, jury, sure*)
  2. oː elsewhere merging with FORCE (eg *poor, tour, gourmand*)
- [ʉː]=uː
- in no-split accents CURE and FORCE merge context-free

# *a detail: the* FOOT/CURE *vowel*

- u is rare: uj?, *up, *ub, *uv, *uθ, *uð, *udʒ, ug only in *sugar*
- the *poor–cure* split: for some speakers CURE splits into
  1. [ʉː] after palatals or merges with NURSE (eg *cure, jury, sure*)
  2. oː elsewhere merging with FORCE (eg *poor, tour, gourmand*)
- [ʉː]=uː
- in no-split accents CURE and FORCE merge context-free
- all accents have 6 short vowels (i e a o u ə)

# *a detail: the* FOOT/CURE *vowel*

- u is rare: uj?, *up, *ub, *uv, *uθ, *uð, *udʒ, ug only in *sugar*
- the *poor–cure* split: for some speakers CURE splits into
  1. [ʉː] after palatals or merges with NURSE (eg *cure, jury, sure*)
  2. oː elsewhere merging with FORCE (eg *poor, tour, gourmand*)
- [ʉː]=uː
- in no-split accents CURE and FORCE merge context-free
- all accents have 6 short vowels (i e a o u ə)
- *poor–cure*-split accents may have

# *a detail: the* FOOT/CURE *vowel*

- u is rare: uj?, *up, *ub, *uv, *uθ, *uð, *udʒ, ug only in *sugar*
- the *poor–cure* split: for some speakers CURE splits into
  1. [ʉː] after palatals or merges with NURSE (eg *cure, jury, sure*)
  2. oː elsewhere merging with FORCE (eg *poor, tour, gourmand*)
- [ʉː]=uː
- in no-split accents CURE and FORCE merge context-free
- all accents have 6 short vowels (i e a o u ə)
- *poor–cure*-split accents may have
  - 6 long vowels (iː eː aː oː uː əː)

# *a detail: the* FOOT/CURE *vowel*

- u is rare: uj?, *up, *ub, *uv, *uθ, *uð, *udʒ, ug only in *sugar*
- the *poor–cure* split: for some speakers CURE splits into
  1. [ʉː] after palatals or merges with NURSE (eg *cure, jury, sure*)
  2. oː elsewhere merging with FORCE (eg *poor, tour, gourmand*)
- [ʉː]=uː
- in no-split accents CURE and FORCE merge context-free
- all accents have 6 short vowels (i e a o u ə)
- *poor–cure*-split accents may have
  - 6 long vowels (iː eː aː oː uː əː)
  - 5 long vowels (iː eː aː oː uː=əː)

# *a detail: the* FOOT/CURE *vowel*

- u is rare: uj?, *up, *ub, *uv, *uθ, *uð, *udʒ, ug only in *sugar*
- the *poor–cure* split: for some speakers CURE splits into
  1. [ʉː] after palatals or merges with NURSE (eg *cure, jury, sure*)
  2. oː elsewhere merging with FORCE (eg *poor, tour, gourmand*)
- [ʉː]=uː
- in no-split accents CURE and FORCE merge context-free
- all accents have 6 short vowels (i e a o u ə)
- *poor–cure*-split accents may have
  - 6 long vowels (iː eː aː oː uː əː)
  - 5 long vowels (iː eː aː oː uː=əː)
- no-split accents have

# *a detail: the* FOOT/CURE *vowel*

- u is rare: uj?, *up, *ub, *uv, *uθ, *uð, *uʤ, ug only in *sugar*
- the *poor–cure* split: for some speakers CURE splits into
  1. [ʉː] after palatals or merges with NURSE (eg *cure, jury, sure*)
  2. oː elsewhere merging with FORCE (eg *poor, tour, gourmand*)
- [ʉː]=uː
- in no-split accents CURE and FORCE merge context-free
- all accents have 6 short vowels (i e a o u ə)
- *poor–cure*-split accents may have
  - 6 long vowels (iː eː aː oː uː əː)
  - 5 long vowels (iː eː aː oː uː=əː)
- no-split accents have
  - 5 long vowels (iː eː aː oː=uː əː)

# *long vowels*

- *poor–cure*-split accents may have complete set of short–long vowel pairs (i–iː e–eː a–aː o–oː u–uː ə–əː), others lack uː

# *long vowels*

- *poor–cure*-split accents may have complete set of short–long vowel pairs (i–iː e–eː a–aː o–oː u–uː ə–əː), others lack uː
- just like in diphthongs, the 2nd half of long Vs is nonsyllabic

# *long vowels*

- *poor–cure*-split accents may have complete set of short–long vowel pairs (i–iː e–eː a–aː o–oː u–uː ə–əː), others lack uː
- just like in diphthongs, the 2nd half of long Vs is nonsyllabic
- ie it cannot be a “normal” vowel, which by definition is syllabic

# *long vowels*

- *poor–cure*-split accents may have complete set of short–long vowel pairs (i–iː e–eː a–aː o–oː u–uː ə–əː), others lack uː
- just like in diphthongs, the 2nd half of long Vs is nonsyllabic
- ie it cannot be a "normal" vowel, which by definition is syllabic
- ie it must be a glide, r or h

# *long vowels*

- *poor–cure*-split accents may have complete set of short–long vowel pairs (i–iː e–eː a–aː o–oː u–uː ə–əː), others lack uː
- just like in diphthongs, the 2nd half of long Vs is nonsyllabic
- ie it cannot be a "normal" vowel, which by definition is syllabic
- ie it must be a glide, r or h

# *long vowels*

- *poor–cure*-split accents may have complete set of short–long vowel pairs (i–iː e–eː a–aː o–oː u–uː ə–əː), others lack uː
- just like in diphthongs, the 2nd half of long Vs is nonsyllabic
- ie it cannot be a "normal" vowel, which by definition is syllabic
- ie it must be a glide, r or h

# *long vowels*

- *poor–cure*-split accents may have complete set of short–long vowel pairs (i–iː e–eː a–aː o–oː u–uː ə–əː), others lack uː
- just like in diphthongs, the 2nd half of long Vs is nonsyllabic
- ie it cannot be a "normal" vowel, which by definition is syllabic
- ie it must be a glide, r or h

arguments for/against r

# *long vowels*

- *poor–cure*-split accents may have complete set of short–long vowel pairs (i–iː e–eː a–aː o–oː u–uː ə–əː), others lack uː
- just like in diphthongs, the 2nd half of long Vs is nonsyllabic
- ie it cannot be a "normal" vowel, which by definition is syllabic
- ie it must be a glide, r or h

arguments for/against r

- history: most long Vs come from Vr

# *long vowels*

- *poor–cure*-split accents may have complete set of short–long vowel pairs (i–iː e–eː a–aː o–oː u–uː ə–əː), others lack uː
- just like in diphthongs, the 2nd half of long Vs is nonsyllabic
- ie it cannot be a "normal" vowel, which by definition is syllabic
- ie it must be a glide, r or h

arguments for/against r

- history: most long Vs come from Vr
- sandhi

# *long vowels*

- *poor–cure*-split accents may have complete set of short–long vowel pairs (i–iː e–eː a–aː o–oː u–uː ə–əː), others lack uː
- just like in diphthongs, the 2nd half of long Vs is nonsyllabic
- ie it cannot be a "normal" vowel, which by definition is syllabic
- ie it must be a glide, r or h

arguments for/against r

- history: most long Vs come from Vr
- sandhi
- V́rV is common

# *long vowels*

- *poor–cure*-split accents may have complete set of short–long vowel pairs (i–iː e–eː a–aː o–oː u–uː ə–əː), others lack uː
- just like in diphthongs, the 2nd half of long Vs is nonsyllabic
- ie it cannot be a "normal" vowel, which by definition is syllabic
- ie it must be a glide, r or h

arguments for/against r

- history: most long Vs come from Vr
- sandhi
- V́rV is common
- r-ness cannot be detected in long Vs

# *long vowels*

- *poor–cure*-split accents may have complete set of short–long vowel pairs (i–iː e–eː a–aː o–oː u–uː ə–əː), others lack uː
- just like in diphthongs, the 2nd half of long Vs is nonsyllabic
- ie it cannot be a "normal" vowel, which by definition is syllabic
- ie it must be a glide, r or h

arguments for/against r

- history: most long Vs come from Vr
- sandhi
- V́rV is common
- r-ness cannot be detected in long Vs

arguments for/against h

# *long vowels*

- *poor–cure*-split accents may have complete set of short–long vowel pairs (i–iː e–eː a–aː o–oː u–uː ə–əː), others lack uː
- just like in diphthongs, the 2nd half of long Vs is nonsyllabic
- ie it cannot be a "normal" vowel, which by definition is syllabic
- ie it must be a glide, r or h

arguments for/against r

- history: most long Vs come from Vr
- sandhi
- V́rV is common
- r-ness cannot be detected in long Vs

arguments for/against h

- few long Vs come from Vh (eg *thought*)

# *long vowels*

- *poor–cure*-split accents may have complete set of short–long vowel pairs (i–iː e–eː a–aː o–oː u–uː ə–əː), others lack uː
- just like in diphthongs, the 2nd half of long Vs is nonsyllabic
- ie it cannot be a "normal" vowel, which by definition is syllabic
- ie it must be a glide, r or h

arguments for/against r

- history: most long Vs come from Vr
- sandhi
- V́rV is common
- r-ness cannot be detected in long Vs

arguments for/against h

- few long Vs come from Vh (eg *thought*)
- no linking with h

# *long vowels*

- *poor–cure*-split accents may have complete set of short–long vowel pairs (i–iː e–eː a–aː o–oː u–uː ə–əː), others lack uː
- just like in diphthongs, the 2nd half of long Vs is nonsyllabic
- ie it cannot be a "normal" vowel, which by definition is syllabic
- ie it must be a glide, r or h

arguments for/against r

- history: most long Vs come from Vr
- sandhi
- ÝrV is common
- r-ness cannot be detected in long Vs

arguments for/against h

- few long Vs come from Vh (eg *thought*)
- no linking with h
- *ÝhV (cf *ÝjV, *ÝwV)

# *long vowels*

- *poor–cure*-split accents may have complete set of short–long vowel pairs (i–iː e–eː a–aː o–oː u–uː ə–əː), others lack uː
- just like in diphthongs, the 2nd half of long Vs is nonsyllabic
- ie it cannot be a "normal" vowel, which by definition is syllabic
- ie it must be a glide, r or h

arguments for/against r

- history: most long Vs come from Vr
- sandhi
- ÝrV is common
- r-ness cannot be detected in long Vs

arguments for/against h

- few long Vs come from Vh (eg *thought*)
- no linking with h
- *ÝhV (cf *ÝjV, *ÝwV)
- h is a V phonetically: ha=[ḁa], ah=[aa]

# *long vowels*

- *poor–cure*-split accents may have complete set of short–long vowel pairs (i–iː e–eː a–aː o–oː u–uː ə–əː), others lack uː
- just like in diphthongs, the 2nd half of long Vs is nonsyllabic
- ie it cannot be a "normal" vowel, which by definition is syllabic
- ie it must be a glide, r or h

arguments for/against r

- history: most long Vs come from Vr
- sandhi
- ÝrV is common
- r-ness cannot be detected in long Vs

arguments for/against h

- few long Vs come from Vh (eg *thought*)
- no linking with h
- *ÝhV (cf *ÝjV, *ÝwV)
- h is a V phonetically: ha=[ḁa], ah=[aa]

# *long vowels*

- *poor–cure*-split accents may have complete set of short–long vowel pairs (i–iː e–eː a–aː o–oː u–uː ə–əː), others lack uː
- just like in diphthongs, the 2nd half of long Vs is nonsyllabic
- ie it cannot be a "normal" vowel, which by definition is syllabic
- ie it must be a glide, r or h

arguments for/against r

- history: most long Vs come from Vr
- sandhi
- ÝrV is common
- r-ness cannot be detected in long Vs

arguments for/against h

- few long Vs come from Vh (eg *thought*)
- no linking with h
- *ÝhV (cf *ÝjV, *ÝwV)
- h is a V phonetically: ha=[ḁa], ah=[aa]

- a problem: why is there no epenthesis after "long vowels"?

# *long vowels*

- *poor–cure*-split accents may have complete set of short–long vowel pairs (i–iː e–eː a–aː o–oː u–uː ə–əː), others lack uː
- just like in diphthongs, the 2nd half of long Vs is nonsyllabic
- ie it cannot be a "normal" vowel, which by definition is syllabic
- ie it must be a glide, r or h

arguments for/against r

- history: most long Vs come from Vr
- sandhi
- V́rV is common
- r-ness cannot be detected in long Vs

arguments for/against h

- few long Vs come from Vh (eg *thought*)
- no linking with h
- *V́hV (cf *V́jV, *V́wV)
- h is a V phonetically: ha=[a̰a], ah=[aa]

- a problem: why is there no epenthesis after "long vowels"?
- perhaps the sonority gap between h and l is large enough?

# *vowels of current British English*

if long vowel = vowel + glide, then

| | __C | __# | __V |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. i e a o u | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| 2. ə | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |

# *vowels of current British English*

if long vowel = vowel + glide, then

| | __C | __# | __V |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. i e a o u | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| 2. ə | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |

1. kit/fleece(/bill)/near, dress/face(/bell)/square, trap/price/mouth/start/bath/palm, lot/choice(/ball)/force/north/thought/cure, foot/goose(/cure)

# *vowels of current British English*

if long vowel = vowel + glide, then

| | __C | __# | __V |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. i e a o u | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ |
| 2. ə | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ |

1. kit/fleece(/bill)/near, dress/face(/bell)/square, trap/price/mouth/start/bath/palm, lot/choice(/ball)/force/north/thought/cure, foot/goose(/cure)
2. strut/comma/letter/goat/nurse(/cure)

# *vowels of current British English*

the diversity of the vowel system results from the combination of six short monophthongs and three glides

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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 |

# *vowels of current British English*

the diversity of the vowel system results from the combination of six short monophthongs and three glides

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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 | uj boo | uw bull | (uh bureau) |
| ə but | əj bow | əw dull | əh bird |

# *some interesting conclusions*

- no hiatus in English

# *some interesting conclusions*

- no hiatus in English
- unstressed schwa is the only vowel English words may end in

# *some interesting conclusions*

- no hiatus in English
- unstressed schwa is the only vowel English words may end in
- in all other cases, all Vs are followed by C

# *some interesting conclusions*

- no hiatus in English
- unstressed schwa is the only vowel English words may end in
- in all other cases, all Vs are followed by C
- three vowels may occur in an unstressed syllable

# *some interesting conclusions*

- no hiatus in English
- unstressed schwa is the only vowel English words may end in
- in all other cases, all Vs are followed by C
- three vowels may occur in an unstressed syllable
  - i: eg *habit* hábit, *happy* hápij

# *some interesting conclusions*

- no hiatus in English
- unstressed schwa is the only vowel English words may end in
- in all other cases, all Vs are followed by C
- three vowels may occur in an unstressed syllable
  - i: eg *habit* hábit, *happy* hápij
  - u: eg *argue* áhgjuw

# *some interesting conclusions*

- no hiatus in English
- unstressed schwa is the only vowel English words may end in
- in all other cases, all Vs are followed by C
- three vowels may occur in an unstressed syllable
  - i: eg *habit* hábit, *happy* hápij
  - u: eg *argue* áhgjuw
  - ə: eg *abbot* ábət, *fellow* féləw