

diphthongs ɪə ʊə eə (ear pure air)

pronunciation

Southern British English (RP)

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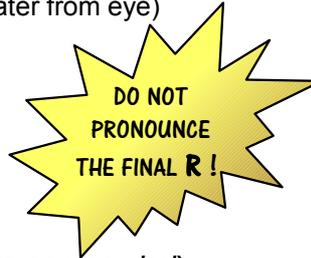
i:	ɪ	ʊ	u:	ɪə	eɪ		
e	ə	ɜ:	ɔ:	ʊə	ɔɪ	əʊ	
æ	ʌ	a:	ɒ	eə	aɪ	aʊ	
p	b	t	d	tʃ	dʒ	k	g
f	v	θ	ð	s	z	ʃ	ʒ
m	n	ŋ	h	l	r	w	j



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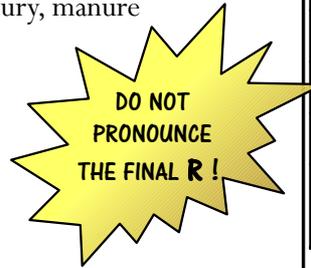
/ɪə/ words

ear, fear, rear, gear, near, year, tear (=water from eye)
 here, hear deer, dear, dearly
 real, really clear, clearly
 we're, weird, beard
 beer, freer, seer, cheer, cheers!
 earring, hearing, sincere, career



/ʊə/ words (most modern speakers now say /ɔ:/)

pure, sure, cure, tour, insecure, tourist, jury, manure



/eə/ words (often reduced to /e:/)

air, there, their where, wear
 Claire, stair, pair, pear, bear
 share, square, care, chair, hair, tear (=rip)
 aeroplane, airport
 rare, rarely fair, fairly

Sound pairs

ɪə	eə
hear	hair
cheers	chairs
beer	bear
ear	air
pier	pear
clear	Claire
speare	spare
beard	bared
tear (=water from eye)	tear (=rip)

eə	ɪə
chair	cheer
stairs	steers
stared	steered
dairy	deary
airing	earring
rarely	really
wary	wearly
fair	fear
care	Kier

Now try these sentences:

/ɪə/

I can hear you clearly.
 Thanks for the beer. Cheers!
 Where's my beer? It's not here!
 We're near the summit. The atmosphere here is very clear.

/ʊə/

Are you sure the tourist is cured?
 I'm sure the manure is pure.

/eə/

Claire has fair hair.
 It's not fair I can't eat dairy products!
 Would you care for a pear?
 Aeroplanes land in the airport over there.

/ɪə/ /ʊə/ /eə/ mixed sentences

Kier has a fear of aeroplanes.
 Be careful! A pair of bears lives near here. Is that clear?
 If she tears her dress on the stairs, I'm sure there'll be tears.
 Here's where the really weird and insecure man with the hairly beard lives.

Check where the sounds were:

/ɪə/

I can hear you clearly.
 Thanks for the beer. Cheers!
 Where's my beer? It's not here!
 We're near the summit. The atmosphere here is very clear.

/ʊə/

Are you sure the tourist is cured?
 I'm sure the manure is pure.

/eə/

Claire has fair hair.
 It's not fair I can't eat dairy products!
 Would you care for a pear?
 Aeroplanes land in the airport over there.

/ɪə/ /ʊə/ /eə/

Kiear has a fiar of eearoplanes.
 Be ceeful! A peear of bees lives niear hiear. Is that cliear?
 If she teeas her dress on the steears, I'm sure there'll be teears.
Hiear's wear the rieally wieard and insecuar man with the heery bieard lives.