

Vowel Diphthongs

Name	Class	Date
	Old33	Datc

You know the vowels are **a**, **e**, **i**, **o**, and **u**. Did you also know that **y** is always a vowel except when it's the first letter of a word? (as in **yellow** and **yard** and **yip**)

This means that when y follows a vowel, it has an effect on it. It creates a vowel pair. When y follows an a or an e, it makes the first vowel

say its name, as in:

playpen (long A) donk<mark>ey</mark> (long E)



Vowel diphthongs are **pairs of vowels**. Neither vowel says its name. Instead, the vowels blend to make a **new sound**. In the examples below, you will see that **oy** is a **vowel diphthong** because it makes a whole new



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The diphthongs **ew** and **oo** make the same sound even though they are spelled very differently.



