

# The English Consonants

The Distinctive Consonants (24 consonantal phonemes)

## A. OBSTRUENTS

articulated with a total closure or a stricture causing friction (voiceless and voiced)

### 1. PLOSIVES

#### the phonetic features

1. place of articulation: /p, b/=bilabial, /t, k/=alveolar, /k, g/=velar
2. force of articulation: /p, t, k/=fortis(strong), /b, d, g/=lenis(weak)
3. aspiration:
  - when /p, t, k/ in initial position in accented syllable, /p, t, k/ aspirated
  - when /p, t, k/ precede silence, no audible release
  - when any plosive follows /s/ within the same syllable, the distinction between /p, t, k/ and /b, d, g/ is neutralized
4. voicing:
  - /b, d, g/ are fully voiced in between voiced sounds
  - when /b, d, g/ in initial position, vocal fold vibration begins in the last portion of the compression stage
  - when /b, d, g/ in final position, vocal fold vibration finishes in the first part of the compression stage
5. length of preceding sounds:
  - when syllables are closed by a voiceless plosive (or any voiceless consonant), they are shorter than those, which are open or closed by a voiced consonant

#### the articulation

1. the closing stage: articulating organs move together in order to form an obstruction
2. the compression stage: lungs compress the air behind the closure (may or may not be voiced)
3. the release stage: the organs forming the obstruction part rapidly allowing the compressed air to escape abruptly (if voiced, the vocal-fold vibration continues throughout this stage)

#### the release stage

1. no audible release in final positions: closure stage maintained, the air compression weakening, release achieved by a gentle, delayed, inaudible opening with the lowering of the soft palate and separation of organs which are forming the oral closure (final /p, t, k/ distinguished from /b, d, g/ by reducing the length of the sound preceding /p, t, k/)
2. no audible release in stop clusters: when a plosive is followed by another plosive or an affricate: the first sound has no audible release and closure of the second is made before the release of the first (one closing and releasing stage for both)
3. glottal reinforcement of final /p, t, k/: the oral closure is reinforced by a glottal closure (glottal closure either coincides with the oral one or even replaces it)
4. nasal release: when a plosive is followed by the nasal consonant, the release of air is effected by the escape of compressed air through the nasal passage (/p, b/+/m/, /t, d/+/n/, /k, g/+/ŋ/)
5. lateral release: when /t, d/ is followed by /l/, /t, d/ is released laterally
6. affrication of plosives: some plosives (/t, d/) are sometimes made with a slow, fricative release

#### /p/

voiceless bilabial plosive

\*accented, aspirated: pin, play

\*accented after /s/, unaspirated: spin, spray

\*weakly accented, relatively unaspirated: upper, simply

\*final syllable, little or no audible release: lip, pump

\*followed by a plosive, no audible release: captain, top boy

\*followed by a nasal, nasal release: topmost, cheep meat

\*followed by a lateral, lateral release: apple, couple, please

soft palate raised, nasal resonator shut off, primary obstacle to the air stream provided by the closure of the lips, lung air compressed behind this closure, vocal folds wide apart, air escapes with force when the lip closure is released (unless it is blocked by a second closure (when p is following) or has been directed through the nose by lowering the soft palate (when m is following)). When the lateral sound follows, the airstream will have a lateral escape round the point alveolar closure.

#### /b/

voiced bilabial plosive

\*initial position, partially devoiced: big, beauty

\*between voiced sound, voiced: rubber, symbol

\*final position, fully devoiced: rib, robe

\*followed by a plosive, no audible release: subconscious, obtained

\*followed by a nasal, nasal release: submerge

\*followed by a lateral, lateral release: bubble, blow

soft palate raised, nasal resonator shut off, primary obstacle to the air stream provided by the closure of the lips, lung air compressed behind this closure, vocal folds vibrate for all or a part of the compression stage, air escapes with force when the lip closure is released (unless it is blocked by a second closure (when p is following) or has been directed through the nose by lowering the soft palate (when m is following)). When the lateral sound follows, the airstream will have a lateral escape round the point alveolar closure.

### /t/

voiceless alveolar plosive

\*accented, aspirated: take, tall

\*accented after /s/, unaspirated: steak, stone

\*weakly accented, relatively unaspirated: butter, entry

\*final syllable, little or no audible release: beat, sent

\*followed by a plosive, no audible release: football, that dog

\*followed by a nasal, nasal release: cotton, not now

\*followed by /m/, nasal release: that man, utmost

\*followed by a lateral, lateral release: little, atlas

soft palate raised, nasal resonator shut off, primary obstacle to the air stream formed by a closure between the tips and the rims of the tongue and the upper alveolar ridge and side teeth, lung air compressed behind this closure. vocal folds wide apart, lip position conditioned by that of adjacent sounds (spread for /i<sup>□</sup>/, rounded for /u<sup>□</sup>/), air escapes with force when the closure is released (unless blocked by alveolar - /k/ -, diverted through nose by lowering soft palate - /n/, or let out laterally - // - alveolar closing removed, tongue tip contact preserved).

### /d/

voiced alveolar plosive

\*initial position, partially devoiced: dog, date

\*between voiced sound, voiced: order, under

\*final position, fully devoiced: old, mad

\*followed by a plosive, no audible release: head boy, red car

\*followed by a nasal, nasal release: road map

\*followed by a lateral, lateral release: middle, good luck

soft palate raised, nasal resonator shut off, primary obstacle to the air stream formed by a closure between the tip and the rims of the tongue and the upper alveolar ridge and side teeth, lung air compressed behind this closure. vocal folds vibrate for all or a part of the compression stage. lip position conditioned by that of adjacent sounds (spread for /i<sup>□</sup>/, rounded for /u<sup>□</sup>/), air escapes with force when the closure is released (unless blocked by alveolar - /k/ -, diverted through nose by lowering soft palate - /n/, or let out laterally - // - alveolar closing removed, tongue tip contact preserved).

### /k/

voiceless velar plosive

\*accented, aspirated: come, cry

\*accented after /s/, unaspirated: scar, skin

\*weakly accented, relatively unaspirated: secret, talking

\*final syllable, little or no audible release: leak, rock

\*followed by a plosive, no audible release: locked black cat

\*followed by a nasal, nasal release: acknowledge, dark night

\*followed by a lateral, lateral release: clean, close

soft palate raised, nasal resonator shut off, primary obstacle to the air stream formed by a closure between the back of the tongue and the soft palate, lung air compressed behind this closure, vocal folds wide apart, lip position conditioned by that of adjacent sounds (spread for /i<sup>□</sup>/, rounded for /u<sup>□</sup>/), air escapes with force when the closure is released (unless blocked by second closure - /p, t/, diverted through nose by lowering soft palate - /ŋ/, or let out laterally round the point of alveolar closure).

### /g/

voiced velar plosive

\*initial position, partially devoiced: guess, grass

\*between voiced sound, voiced: begin, angry

\*final position, fully devoiced: dog, vague

\*followed by a plosive, no audible release: rugby, big game

\*followed by a nasal, nasal release: ignore, big man

\*followed by a lateral, lateral release: struggle, dog lead

soft palate raised, nasal resonator shut off, primary obstacle to the air stream formed by a closure between the back of the tongue and the soft palate, lung air compressed behind this closure, vocal folds vibrate for all or a part of the compression stage, lip position conditioned by that of adjacent sounds (spread for /i<sup>□</sup>/, rounded for /u<sup>□</sup>/), air escapes with force when the closure is released (unless blocked by second closure - /p, t/, diverted through nose by lowering soft palate - /ŋ/, or let out laterally round the point of alveolar closure).

### /ʔ/

glottal plosive

primary obstacle to the air stream formed by a closure of the vocal folds

usage

-serves as a syllable boundary maker (any initial accented vowel may be reinforced by a preceding glottal stop when emphasis is placed on the word)

-reinforcement of voiceless plosives occurs in a syllable-final position where a vowel, nasal or lateral precedes and where a pause or a consonant follows (it is more likely to occur at the end of an accented syllable, /tʔ/ may be reinforced before a vowel)

-replacement of /p, t, k/ when a consonant follows. no oral closure... bla bla...(ni vredno truda)

## 2. AFFRICATES

### phonemic features:

1. the distribution of the sound complex: in initial, mid, final position in a word with close-knit stop and fricative elements and in mid position with disjunctive stop and fricative elements (/tr,dr/ do not occur in a final position, /ts, dz/ do not occur in initial)
2. possibilities of commutation of the elements: the elements of /tʃ/ may be commutated with the same syllable, the elements of /dʒ/ have a more restricted possibility, /tr,dr/ can commute especially in the first element and are more reasonably to be considered as a separate elements
3. glottalization: /tʃ/ is liable to glottal reinforcement

### the articulation

1. the closing stage
2. the compression stage
3. the release stage: preformed in such a way that considerable friction occurs approximately at the point where the plosive stop is being made

### /tʃ/

voiceless palato-alveolar affricate

\*initial position: chain, charge

\*mid position: nature, rider

preceding consonant: gesture, culture

\*final position: catch, porch

preceding consonant: inch, branch

soft palate is raised, nasal resonator shut off, obstacle formed by a closure made between the tip, blade and rims of the tongue and the upper alveolar ridge and side teeth, the front of the tongue is raised towards the hard palate in readiness for fricative release, closure is released slowly, during both stop and fricative stages vocal folds are wide apart, lip position conditioned by that of the adjacent sound, if /tʃ/ is final in the syllable, it reduces the length of preceding sound.

### /dʒ/

voiced palato-alveolar affricate

\*initial position: jar, joke

\*mid position: urgent, major

preceding consonant: danger. object

\*final position: edge, age

preceding consonant: change, sponge

soft palate is raised, nasal resonator shut off, obstacle formed by a closure made between the tip, blade and rims of the tongue and the upper alveolar ridge and side teeth, the front of the tongue is raised towards the hard palate in readiness for fricative release, closure is released slowly, during both stop and fricative stages vocal folds are vibrating, lip position conditioned by that of the adjacent sound. /dʒ/ may be devoiced in final and initial positions.

## 3. FRICATIVES

### the phonetic features:

1. place of articulation: /f, v/=labio-dental, /θ, ð/=dental, /s, z/=alveolar, /ʃ, ʒ/=palato-alveolar, /h/=glottal
2. force of articulation: /f, θ, s, ð/=lenis, /v, ð, z, ʒ/=fortis, /h/=fortis in character, lenis allophone
3. voicing:
  - /v, θ, z, ʒ/ are fully voiced in between voiced sounds
  - when /v, ʒ, z, ʒ/ in initial or final position only partially or almost completely devoiced
  - /h/ voiceless in initial position, may be slightly voiced in mid position between two voiced sounds
4. length of preceding sounds:
  - when syllables are closed by a voiceless fricative (or any voiceless consonant), they are shorter than those, which are open or closed by a voiced consonant

### the articulation:

two organs are brought and held sufficiently close together for the escaping air stream to produce air turbulence

### /f/

voiceless labio-dental fricative

\*initial position: feet, photo

\*mid position: affair, suffer

\*final position: leaf, cough

\*initial cluster: fry, sphere

\*final cluster: fifth(s), soften

soft palate is raised, nasal resonator shut off, inner surface of the lower lip makes a light contact with the edge of the upper teeth, escaping air produces friction, vocal folds are wide apart, the tongue between intervocalic /f/ articulates independently for the vowels. Adjacent vowel affects position of tongue.

### /v/

voiced labio-dental fricative

\*initial position: veal, voice

\*mid position: nephew, cover

\*final position: leave, of

\*initial cluster: view

\*final cluster: oven, solve

soft palate is raised, nasal resonator shut off, inner surface of the lower lip makes a light contact with the edge of the upper teeth, escaping air produces friction, vocal folds are vibrating, the tongue between intervocalic /v/ articulates independently for the vowels. Adjacent vowel affects position of tongue.

/θ/

voiceless dental fricative

\*initial position: thief, thick

\*mid position: ethic, worthless

\*final position: breath, earth

\*initial cluster: three, threw

\*final cluster: earthen

soft palate is raised, nasal resonator shut off, tip and rims of the tongue make a light contact with the upper incisors and firmer contact with the upper side teeth. The tongue is flat, aperture through which the air escapes has a shape of a slit, the escaped air causes friction. Vocal folds are wide apart, lip position is affected by an adjacent sound

/ð/

voiced dental fricative

\*initial position: three, this

\*mid position: breeding, father

\*final position: with, clothe

\*final cluster: clothes, writhed

soft palate is raised, nasal resonator shut off, tip and rims of the tongue make a light contact with the upper incisors and firmer contact with the upper side teeth. The tongue is flat, aperture through which the air escapes has a shape of a slit, the escaped air causes friction (weak for /ð/). Vocal folds are vibrating, lip position is affected by an adjacent sound

/s/

voiceless alveolar fricative

initial: cease, sat

medial: pieces, losses

final: niece, farse

initial cluster: spare, stain, scarce

final clusters: gasp(s,ed), ask (s,ed)

soft palate is raised, nasal resonator shut off, blade of the tongue makes a light contact with the upper alveolar ridge, side rims make a close contact with upper side teeth. Aperture through which the air escapes has a shape of a groove, centre of the tongue causes friction between tongue and alveolar ridge. There is little opening between the teeth. Vocal folds are wide apart, lip position is affected by an adjacent sound.

/z/

voiced alveolar fricative

initial: zeal zest, zinc

medial: easy, hesitate

final: fees, is, says

final clusters: ribs, heads

soft palate is raised, nasal resonator shut off, blade of the tongue makes a light contact with the upper alveolar ridge, side rims make a close contact with upper side teeth. Aperture through which the air escapes has a shape of a groove, centre of the tongue causes friction between tongue and alveolar ridge. There is little opening between the teeth. Vocal folds are vibrating, lip position is affected by an adjacent sound.

/ʃ/

voiceless palato-alveolar fricative

\*initial position: sheet, shout

\*mid position: Asia, machine

\*final position: rush, finish

\*initial cluster: shrink

\*final cluster: fashion, patient

soft palate is raised, nasal resonator shut off, tip and blade of the tongue makes a light contact with the alveolar ridge, front of the tongue is raised in the direction of the hard palate, side rims of the tongue in contact with the upper side teeth, escape of air is diffuse, vocal folds are apart, lip position affected by an adjacent sound

/ʒ/

voiced palato-alveolar fricative

\*initial position: gigolo, genre

\*mid position: pleasure, confusion

\*final position: prestige, garage

\*final cluster: vision

soft palate is raised, nasal resonator shut off, tip and blade of the tongue makes a light contact with the alveolar ridge, front of the tongue is raised in the direction of the hard palate, side rims of the tongue in contact with the upper side teeth, escape of air is diffuse, vocal folds are vibrating, lip position affected by an adjacent sound.

/h/

voiceless glottal fricative

\*initial position: him, who

\*mid position: ahead, anyhow

occurs in initial syllable pre-vocalic positions, air is expelled from the lungs with considerable pressure, causing some friction throughout the vocal tract, lips are raised in readiness for the articulation of the following vowel

## B. SONORANTS

in their articulation there is only a partial closure or an unimpeded oral or nasal escape of the air (only voiced consonants)

### 1. NASALS

the phonetic features:

1. /m/=bilabial, /n/=alveolar, /ŋ/=velar
2. able to perform syllabic functions of the vowels
3. devoiced allophone of /m/ and /n/ can be heard, when a voiceless consonant precedes

the acoustic features:

no noise components, no silence gap

the articulation

total closure made in the mouth, soft palate in its lowered position, allowing the air to escape into nasal cavity, no audible friction is produced, they are voiced

/m/

voiced bilabial nasal

\*initial position: meal, mouse

\*following word initial /s/: smack, smile

\*mid position: demon, camel

\*final position: seem, game

lips form a closure as for /p,b/, soft palate is lowered, adding the resonance of the nasal cavity to those of the pharynx, the mouth chamber is closed by the lips, tongue will generally anticipate or retain the position of the adjacent vowel or /l/, except when partially devoiced by a preceding voiceless consonants, /m/ is voiced

/n/

voiced alveolar nasal

\*initial position: knit, near

\*following word-initial /s/: sneeze, snow

\*mid position: dinner, evening

\*final position: pen, soon

\*syllabic /n/: cotton, often, dozen, vision,

tongue forms a closure within the teeth ridge and upper side teeth, soft palate lowered, adding the resonance of the nasal cavity to those of the pharynx and of that part of the mouth chamber behind the alveolar closure, lip position depends upon that of adjacent vowels (spread – neat, keen, neutrally open – snarl, barn, rounded – noon soon), except when partially devoiced by a preceding voiceless consonant, /n/ is voiced

/ŋ/

voiced velar nasal

\*mid position: singer, anxiety

\*mid position + /g/: finger, language

\*mid position + /k/: monkey, anxious

\*final position: sing, among

\*final position + /k/: amongst, rank

\*final position syllabic /ŋ/: organ, taken, bacon

closure is formed in mouth between the back of the tongue and velum, soft palate is lowered, adding the resonance of nasal cavity to that of the pharynx and that small part of the mouth chamber behind the velar closure, lip position depends upon that of adjacent vowels (spread – sing, open – song) - except when partially devoiced by a preceding voiceless consonant, /ŋ/ is voiced





/ɜ/ short, unrounded, central, open-mid vowel

If // is preceded by /ɜ/, it becomes dark [ɝ]: dull, result, pulse, bulge, bulb

The short RP /ɜ/ is articulated with a considerable separation of the jaws and with lips neutrally open; the centre of the tongue is raised just above the fully open position, no contact is made between the rims of the tongue and the upper molars. /ɜ/ does not occur in final, open syllables.

/ɔ/ long, unrounded, back open vowel

/ɔ/ - /ɔ/ (if followed by a voiceless consonant - reduced) - card, cart; parse, pass; carve, calf; large, larch  
If // is preceded by /ɔ/, it becomes dark [ɔ]: snarl, gnarled, Charles

This normally long vowel is articulated with a considerable separation of the jaws and with lips neutrally open; a part of the tongue between the centre and back is in the fully open position, no contact is made between the rims of the tongue and the upper molars. Although there is a difference in length according to whether it occurs in syllable closed by a voiced or voiceless consonant, it is not as marked as with other long vowels. The reduced [ɔ] of cart is therefore a little longer than the /ɜ/ of cut. /ɔ/ does not normally occur before /ʃ/.

/ɔ/ short, rounded, back open vowel

If // is preceded by /ɔ/, it becomes dark [ɔ]: doll, involve, revolver  
Yacht is transcribed as /jɔt/

This short vowel is articulated with wide open jaws and slight open lip-rounding; the back of the tongue is in fully open position, no contact is made between the rims of the tongue and the upper molars.

/ɔ/ long, rounded, back, open-mid vowel

[ɔ], [ɔ] (reduced if preceded by a voiceless consonant) – saw, sort; war, wart; board, bought; saws, sauce  
If // is preceded by /ɔ/, it becomes dark [ɔ]: all, ball, bald, walled, halt, false

This relatively long RP vowel is articulated with medium lip-rounding; the back of the tongue is raised between the open-mid and close-mid positions, no contact is made between the rims of the tongue and the upper molars. /ɔ/ does not normally occur before /ʃ/.

/ɔ/ short, rounded, back, close-mid vowel

/ɔ/, /u/ - full, fool; wood, wooed  
If // is preceded by /ɔ/, it becomes dark [ɔ]: full, pull, wool, wolf

The short RP vowel /ɔ/ is pronounced with a part of the tongue nearer to centre than to back, raised just above the close-mid position; the tongue is laxly held (compared with /u/), no contact is made between the rims of the tongue and the upper molars. Lip-rounding is close, but loose (sometimes lips are not rounded at all). This can be seen with good, should, could, would (last three words may have /ɔ/ instead of /ɔ/). /ɔ/ does not occur in final positions or before /ʃ/.

/u/ long, rounded, back, close vowel

[u], [u] (reduced) – shoe, shoot; rude, root; lose, loose; use (v.), use (n); nude, newt; Jews, juice  
If // is preceded by /u/, it becomes dark [ɯ]: cool, rule, schools, fooled

The RP long /u/ is a close back vowel, but the tongue raising is relaxed from the closest position and somewhat centralized from the true back. The articulation of /u/ is tense compared to that of /ɔ/, but no contact is made between the rims of the tongue and the upper molars. The lips are closely rounded, unrounding of /u/ is less common than of /ɔ/.

/ɔ/ long, unrounded, central mid vowel

[ɔ], [ɔ] (reduced) – cur, curt; heard, hurt; surge, search; purrs, purse; Thursday, thirsty; serve, surf  
If // is preceded by /ɔ/, it becomes dark [ɔ]: earl, curl, world, girls

RP /ɔ/ is articulated with centre of the tongue raised between close-mid and open-mid positions, no firm contact is made between the rims of the tongue and the upper molars; the lips are neutrally spread. The difference between /ɔ/ and /ɔ/ is only in length. /ɔ/ usually occurs in accented syllables and /ɔ/ in unaccented ones.

/ɔ/ long, unrounded, central mid vowel

/ɔ/ is usually in opposition either with zero vowel (about, bout; waiter, wait;) or with unaccented /ɔ/ (affect, effect; accept, except; razors, raises)  
/ɔ/ is common in unaccented forms of words, such as a, an, the, to, for, but

in non-final positions a tongue is raised between open-mid and close-mid: alone, forward, decorative, afterwards  
 In the vicinity of velar consonants the tongue may be slightly more raised and retracted: long ago /ə'loʊŋ\*ɹə\*ɪ\*ʃ/\*.  
 In final positions the vowel may be articulated in the open-mid central positions: mother, doctor, over, picture, China

/ɪ/ has a very high frequency of occurrence in unaccented syllables. It is a central vowel, with neutral lip position, having in non-final positions a tongue raising between open-mid and close-mid. In the vicinity of velar consonants the tongue may be slightly more raised and retracted. In final positions the vowel may be articulated in the open-mid central positions.

## 2. DIPHTHONGS

- Most of the length and stress associated with the glide is concentrated on the first element, the second element being only lightly sounded.
- They are equivalent in length to the long (pure) vowels and are subject to the same variations of quantity e.g. plays [pleɪz], place [pleɪs]. The reduced forms show a considerable shortening of the first element.
- No diphthong occur before /r/, except when word-final /n/ l assimilated to /r/ in connected speech.
- With the exception of /ɔɪ/, the RP diphthongs principally derive from earlier pure vowels.

/eɪ/

[eɪ], [eɪ] (reduced) - played, plate; ray, race; way, waist; save, safe  
 If // is preceded by /eɪ/, it becomes dark [ɔ̃]: male, pale, failed, sales

The glide begins from slightly below the close-mid front position and moves and moves in the direction of RP /eɪ/, there being a slight closing of the lower jaw; the lips are spread;

/aɪ/

[aɪ], [aɪ] (reduced): tie, tight; tidal, title; eyes, ice; riding, writing  
 If // is preceded by /aɪ/, it becomes dark [ɔ̃]: mile, aisle, piles, mild

The glide of RP /aɪ/ begins at a point slightly behind the front open position, and moves in the direction of the position associated with RP /eɪ/, the tongue is usually not raised to a level closer than [ɛ] the glide is much more extensive than that of /eɪ/ the closing movement of the lower jaw is obvious. The starting point of articulation may be similar to the one of /ɔɪ/. The lips change from neutral to loosely spread position.

/ɔɪ/

[ɔɪ], [ɔɪ] (reduced) noise, voice; joys, joist  
 If // is preceded by /ɔɪ/, it becomes dark [ɔ̃]: soil, coiled boils

The glide of the tongue at a point between the open-mid and open back and moves in the direction of /ɔɪ/, generally getting no closer than [ɛ̃]. The tongue movement extends from back to centralized front, but the range of closing in the glide is not as great as for /aɪ/; the jaw movement, though considerable, may not therefore be as marked as with /aɪ/. The lips are open rounded for the first element, changing to neutral for the second.

/ɔɪ/

[ɔɪ], [ɔɪ] (reduced) – robe, rope; toes, toast; grows, gross; road, wrote; cold, colt  
 If // is preceded by /ɔɪ/, it becomes dark [ɔ̃]: hole, roll, old, moult, bolt, poles

The glide RP /ɔɪ/ begins at a central position, between close-mid and open-mid and moves in the direction of RP /ɔɪ/, there being a slight closing movement of the lower jaw; the are neutral for the first element, but usually round on the second one. The starting may have a tongue position similar to that of /ɔɪ/ (centre of the tongue between open-mid and close-mid positions).

/aɪ/

[aɪ], [aɪ] (reduced) – allows, a louse; found, fount; mouth (v.), mouth (n.); loud, lout  
 If // is preceded by /aɪ/, it becomes dark [ɔ̃]: cowl, foul, owls

The glide of RP vowel /aɪ/ begins at a point between the back and front open positions, slightly more fronted than the position for RP /ɔɪ/ and moves in the direction of RP /ɔɪ/, though the tongue may be raised higher than the close-mid level. The lips change from a neutrally open to a weakly rounded position.

## 3. CENTERING DIPHTHONGS

/ɔɪ/

[ɔɪ], [ɔɪ] (reduced): fears, fierce  
 If // is preceded by /ɔɪ/, it becomes dark [ɔ̃]: real

more open variety of /★/ when /<sup>10</sup>★/ is final in the word

In non-final positions, the glide may not be so extensive, the quality of the [★] element being of a mid type: beard, fierce

The glide of RP /<sup>10</sup>★/ begins with tongue position similar to close-mid and centralized from front and moves in the direction of more open variety of /★/ when /<sup>10</sup>★/ is final in the word. In non-final positions, e.g. in beard, fierce, the glide may not be so extensive, the quality of the [★] element being of a mid type. The lips are neutral throughout, with a slight movement from spread to open.

/e★/

[e=★], [e★] (reduced) – scares, scarce

No cases of /e★/ + [ɹ]

The glide of RP /e★/ begins in open-mid front position and moves in the direction of the more open variety of /★/, especially when the diphthong is final; where /e★/ occurs in word-medial position, the [★] element tends to be of a mid [★] type. The lips are neutrally open throughout.

/ɪ★/

RP /ɪ★/ glides from a tongue position similar to that used for /ɪ/ (part of the tongue nearer to centre than to back, raised just above the close-mid position), towards a more open type of /★/, with a somewhat closer variety of [★] when the diphthong occurs in word-medial position. The lips are weakly rounded at the beginning of the glide, becoming neutrally spread as the glide progresses.