

Diphthongs

Diphthong comparison:

The “OU” diphthong

house
cough
through
dough
shoulder
should

“OUGH”

The combination "ough" can be pronounced in nine different ways.

The following sentence contains them all:

"A rough-coated, dough-faced, thoughtful ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough; after falling into a slough, he coughed and hiccoughed."

My favorite “ough” re-pronunciation is “duff-nut” for doughnut.

"I'll have a cup of coffee and a duff-nut."

Pronunciation

Donkey (ON) vs. Monkey (UN)

Should we say “dun-key”? or “dON-key”? Should we say “mun-key” or “mON-key”

Or perhaps we should say “moan-key” and “doan-key”?

Ghoti

Pronounce the word “ghoti.”

“gh” as in tough

“o” as in women

“ti” as in vacation

The answer is: “fish”