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ГРАФИЧЕСКАЯ ПЕРЕДАЧА АНГЛИЙСКИХ ДИФТОНГОВ НА ПИСЬМЕ

Обзор

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Аннотация

Статья посвящена исследованию проблемы графической передачи дифтонгов при осуществлении образовательной деятельности индивидуальным предпринимателем в рамках дисциплины «Иностранный язык (английский)». Автор рассматривает основные способы графической передачи фонем, а именно буквы и комбинации букв, используемые при образовании рассматриваемых звуков. Исследование имеет целью удовлетворить потребности обучающихся, а также педагогических работников в описании способов графической передачи звуков английского языка.

Ключевые слова: английский язык, графическая передача, дифтонги, индивидуальный предприниматель, образовательная деятельность.

LETTERS AND THEIR COMBINATIONS REPRESENTING ENGLISH DIPHTHONGS IN WRITING

Review

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Abstract

The article is devoted to the study of the problem of graphic spelling of diphthongs in educational activities of the individual entrepreneur in English classes. The author identifies the main ways of graphic spelling of the phonemes, namely letters and combinations of letters used in the formation of the sounds in question. The study aims to meet the needs of learners as well as teachers in describing the ways of graphic spelling of English sounds.

Keywords: diphthongs, educational activities, English, graphic spelling, individual entrepreneur.

In 2012, the Russian Legislature adopted Federal Act “About Education in the Russian Federation” [8]. Under the Act, none but educational institutions, organizations carrying out education and individual entrepreneurs are entitled to render educational activities [8. Article 21]. The Act stipulates that individual entrepreneurs render educational activities directly or indirectly by employing pedagogical workers [8. Article 32]. The educational activities of individual entrepreneurs within the framework of teaching English cover a very diverse target audience that includes pre-school children, students of secondary and higher educational institutions, individuals, representatives of legal entities. These groups are currently presented by citizens of the Russian Federation, the CIS and foreign countries.

The year of 2015 initiated our research which was planned that same year, done in 2015-2018 and approved in 2018-2019 at In. Yaz. – Foreign Languages, Interpretation and Translation Center (Individual Entrepreneur – Shilikov S.I.). In English classes, we observed the students experience phonetic and spelling problems while learning English words containing one and the same letter or a combination of the same letters pronounced differently in definite cases, e.g. the vowel letter *a* in the following words: *after* – [a:], *age* – [eɪ], *ago* – [ə], *all* – [ɔ:], *ant* – [æ], *Bologna* – [jə], *climate* – [ɪ], *parent* – [eə], *watch* – [ɔ]; the combination of vowel and consonant letters *our*: *sour* – [sauə], *tumour* – [ə], *courtesy* – [ɜ:], *concourse* – [o:], *tour* – [uə]; the combination of consonant letters *ch*, e.g. *chef* – [ʃ], *chess* – [tʃ], *chorus* – [k], *sandwich* – [dʒ].

The relevance of the research work arose in the background of insufficient coverage of the declared topic in the educational process carried out by individual entrepreneurs in the Russian Federation. The introductory [10], introductory and phonetic courses [6], English phonetics [15] and phonology manuals [14], [20] at that time did not allow us to find irrefragable answers to all questions of the students regarding the multiple ways of graphical spelling of vowel and consonant phonemes. That demand prompted us to study the problem thoroughly.

The material of the research work consisted of various texts taken for our consideration from pieces of literature, periodicals, the Internet. We also dealt with business correspondence, films, advertising; explanatory [5], [7], [17] and on-line dictionaries [11], [12], [13]; guides to contemporary English pronunciation [16], [18], [19]. We examined the parts of speech and their transformations regarding tense, voice, number, case, degree, mood categories. It seemed natural for us to view abbreviations, acronyms, interjections and loan words, paying particular attention to such toponyms [3] as the names of cities, continents, countries, days of the week, months, nationalities, people's names, patronymics and sur-names, rivers, salads, social networks, seas, stars, states, wines, etc.

In this article, we endeavour to compile and systematize the ways of graphical spelling of diphthongs ([au], [ɔɪ], [ɪə], [əʊ], [aɪ], [uə], [eə], [eɪ]) [2], [4], [6] omitting other 12 vowel (10 monophthongs, 2 diphthongoids) and 24 consonant sounds [9], [10].

The vowel sound [aʊ] can be represented by combinations of English letters *au* (e.g. *Saudi Arabia* – [saʊdɪə'reɪbiə]), *ou* (*tousle* – [ˈtaʊzl] or [ˈtaʊzəl]), *ough* (*plough* – [plau]), *ow* (*scowl* – [skaul]). The sound [aʊ] can be placed in the initial (*out* – [aut]), middle (*house* – [haus]) and final (*brow* – [braʊ]) position of words. The diphthong [aʊ] is represented by four combinations of letters (*au*, *ou*, *ough*, *ow*). In two cases, this phoneme is formed in graphic spelling by combinations of vowel

letters (*au, ou*) and in two cases – by combinations of vowel and consonant letters (*ough, ow*). For detailed information on diphthongs and letters and letter combinations representing them, we refer our readers to Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Ways of Graphical Spelling of Diphthongs

#	Vowel Phoneme	Vowel Letters and their Combinations	Combinations of Vowel and Consonant Letters	Consonant Letter	Combination of the Apostrophe, Consonant and Vowel Letters
1.	[aʊ]	au, ou	ough, ow		
2.	[ɔɪ]	oi, oy	ois		
3.	[iə]	e	ear, eer, eir, ere, hea, iar, ier, ior, ir		
		ea, eo, eou, eu, ia, ie, io, iou, iu, ya			
4.	[əʊ]	o	aoh, ew, hau, ho, ol, ough, ow, owe		'ho
		eau, au, eou, oa, oe, oo, ou			
5.	[aɪ]	i, y	eigh, ig, igh		
		ei, ey, eye, ie, ui, uy, ye			
6.	[ʊə]	u	ewer, oor, our, uar, ueur, ure		
		ua, ue, uou			
7.	[ɛə]	a, e	air, aire, are, ayor, ear, eir, er, ere		
		ae, ai			
8.	[eɪ]	a, e, é	ag, aig, aigh, eig, eigh, er, et, uet	h, j, k	
		ae, ai, ay, ea, ee or ée, ei, ey, oa			

The vowel sound [ɔɪ] can be represented by combinations of letters *oi* (*moist* – [mɔɪst]), *ois* (*Illinois* – [ɪlɪ'nɔɪ]), *oy* (*deploy* – [dɪ'plɔɪ]). The sound [ɔɪ] can be placed in the initial (*oyster* – [ɔɪstə]), middle (*avoid* – [ə'vɔɪd]) and final (*destroy* – [dɪ'strɔɪ]) position of words. The diphthong [ɔɪ] is represented by three combinations of letters (*oi, ois, oy*). In two cases, this phoneme is formed in graphic spelling by combinations of vowel letters (*oi, oy*) and in one case – by a combination of vowel and consonant letters (*ois*).

The vowel sound [iə] can be represented by the letter *e* (*query* – [kʷɛrɪ]) and by combinations of letters *ea* (*ideal* – [aɪ'dɪəl]), *ear* (*sear* – [sɪə]), *eer* (*veneer* – [vɪ'nɪə] or [və'nɪə]), *eir* (*weird* – [wɪəd]), *eo* (*theory* – [θɪərɪ]), *eou* (*hideous* – [hɪ'dɪəs]), *ere* (*adhere* – [əd'hɪə]), *eu* (*linoleum* – [lɪ'nəʊlɪəm]), *hea* (*gonorrhoea* – [gɔnə'riə]), *ia* (*guardian* – [gɑ:dɪən]), *iar* (*peculiar* – [pɪ'kju:lɪə]), *ie* (*nutrient* – [nju:trɪənt]), *ier* (*pierce* – [pɪəs]), *io* (*oblivion* – [əb'lvɪən]), *ior* (*warrior* – [wɔrɪə]), *iou* (*tedious* – [tɪ'dɪəs]), *ir* (*souvenir* – [su:və'nɪə]), *iu* (*premium* – [pɪ:miəm]), *ya* (*Libya* – [lɪbɪə]). The sound [iə] can be placed in the zero (*ear* – [ɪə]), initial (*earshot* – [ɪəʃɒt]), middle (*material* – [mə'tɪəriəl]) and final (*fear* – [fɪə]) position of words. The diphthong [iə] is represented by one letter (*e*) and 19 combinations of letters (*ea, ear, eer, eo, eou, ere, eu, hea, ia, iar, ie, ier, io, ior, iou, ir, iu, ya*). In 10 cases, this phoneme is formed in graphic spelling by combinations of vowel letters (*ea, eo, eou, eu, ia, ie, io, iou, iu, ya*) and in nine cases – by combinations of vowel and consonant letters (*ear, eer, eir, ere, hea, iar, ier, ior, ir*).

The vowel sound [əʊ] can be represented by the letter *o* (*rodent* – [rəʊdnt] or [rəʊdənt]) and by combinations of letters *aoh* (*pharaoh* – [fɛərəʊ]), *au* (*sauté* – [səʊteɪ]), *eau* (*plateau* – [plætəʊ]), *eou* (*Seoul* – [səʊl]), *ew* (*sew* – [səʊ]), *hau* (*haute couture* – [əʊtkə'tuə], [əʊtkə'tjuə] or [əʊtku:'tjuə]), *ho* (*Rhode Island* – [rəʊd'aɪlənd]), *'ho* (*table d'hôte* – [ta:bl'dəʊt] or [ta:bəl'dəʊt]), *oa* (*float* – [fləʊt]), *oe* (*foe* – [fəʊ]), *ol* (*folk* – [fəʊk]), *oo* (*brooch* – [brəʊtʃ]), *ou* (*soul* – [səʊl]), *ough* (*dough* – [dəʊ]), *ow* (*mellow* – [meləʊ]), *owe* (*owe* – [əʊ]). The sound [əʊ] can be placed in the zero (*Oh* – [əʊ]), initial (*own* – [əʊn]), middle (*note* – [nəʊt]) and final (*polo* – [pəʊləʊ]) position of words. The diphthong [əʊ] is represented by one letter (*o*), by 15 combinations of letters (*aoh, eau, au, eou, ew, hau, ho, oa, oe, ol, oo, ou, ough, ow, owe*) and by one combination of the apostrophe, a consonant and a vowel letters ('*ho*). In seven cases, this phoneme is formed in graphic spelling by combinations of vowel letters (*eau, au, eou, oa, oe, oo, ou*), in eight cases – by combinations of vowel and consonant letters (*aoh, ew, hau, ho, ol, ough, ow, owe*) and in one case – by a combination of the apostrophe and letters ('*ho*).

The vowel sound [aɪ] can be represented by the letters *i* (*grime* – [gram]), *y* (*ply* – [plai]) and by combinations of letters *ei* (*skein* – [skam]), *igh* (*height* – [haɪt]), *ey* (*geyser* – [gɛzə]), *eye* (*eye* – [aɪ]), *ie* (*tie* – [taɪ]), *ig* (*benign* – [bɪ'nam]), *igh* (*knight* – [naɪt]), *ui* (*disguise* – [dɪs'gɛz]), *uy* (*buy* – [baɪ]), *ye* (*bye* – [baɪ]). The sound [aɪ] can be placed in the zero (*I* – [aɪ]), initial (*either* – [aɪðə]), middle (*neither* – [naɪðə]) and final (*verify* – [verɪfaɪ]) position of words. The diphthong [aɪ] is represented by two letters (*i, y*) and by 10 combinations of letters (*ei, igh, ey, eye, ie, ig, igh, ui, uy, ye*). In seven cases, this phoneme is formed in graphic spelling by combinations of vowel letters (*ei, ey, eye, ie, ui, uy, ye*) and in three cases – by combinations of vowel and consonant letters (*igh, ig, igh*).

The vowel sound [ʊə] can be represented by the letter *u* (*rural* – [rʊərl] or [rʊərəl]) and by combinations of letters *ewer* (*skewer* – [skjʊə]), *oor* (*moor* – [mʊə] or [mo:]), *our* (*dour* – [dʊə]), *ua* (*septuagenarian* – [septʃʊədʒɪ'nɛərɪən]), *uar* (*Stuart* – [stjʊət]), *ue* (*fuel* – [fjʊəl]), *ueur* (*liqueur* – [lɪ'kjʊə]), *uou* (*sumptuous* – [sʌmptʃʊəs] or [sʌmptʃʊəs]), *ure* (*obscure* – [ɔbskjʊə]). The sound [ʊə] can be placed in the middle (*gourmet* – [gʊəmeɪ]) and final (*poor* – [pʊə]) position of words. The diphthong [ʊə] is represented by one letter (*u*) and by nine combinations of letters (*ewer, oor, our, ua, uar, ue, ueur, uou, ure*).

In three cases, this phoneme is formed in graphic spelling by combinations of vowel letters (*ua, ue, uou*) and in six cases – by combinations of vowel and consonant letters (*ewer, oor, our, uar, ueur, ure*).

The vowel sound [ɛə] can be represented by the letters *a* (*pharaoh* – [ˈfɛərəʊ]), *e* (*wisteria* – [ˈwɪsˈtɛəriə]) and by combinations of letters *ae* (*aerodynamics* – [ɛərədaɪˈnæmɪks]), *ai* (*dairy* – [ˈdeəri]), *air* (*fair* – [fɛə]), *aire* (*questionnaire* – [kwɛstjəˈneə]), *are* (*welfare* – [ˈwɛlfɛə]), *ayor* (*mayor* – [mɛə]), *ear* (*forebear* – [ˈfoːbɛə]), *eir* (*their* – [ðɛə]), *er* (*concierge* – [kɒnsɪˈɛəʒ]), *ere* (*therefore* – [ˈðɛəfoː]). The sound [ɛə] can be placed in the zero (*air* – [ɛə]), initial (*area* – [ˈɛəriə]), middle (*whereas* – [wɛəˈræz]) and final (*where* – [wɛə]) position of words. The diphthong [ɛə] is represented by two letters (*a, e*) and by ten graphic combinations of letters (*ae, ai, air, air, are, ayor, ear, eir, er, ere*). In two cases, this phoneme is formed in graphic spelling by combinations of vowel letters (*ae, ai*) and in eight cases – by combinations of vowel and consonant letters (*air, aire, are, ayor, ear, eir, er, ere*).

The vowel sound [eɪ] can be represented by the vowel letters *a* (*slate* – [sleɪt]) and *e* (*elite* – [eɪˈliːt]), by the consonant letters *h* (*PhD* – [piːeɪtˈdiː]), *j* (*J.F Kennedy* – [dʒeɪfˈkenɛdi]) and *k* (*KGB* – [keɪdʒiːˈbiː]), by the French letter *é* (*protégé* – [ˈprɒtɛʒeɪ]) and by combinations of letters *ae* (*Gaelic* – [ˈgeɪlɪk]), *ag* (*champagne* – [ʃæmˈpeɪn]), *ai* (*maim* – [meɪm]), *aig* (*campaign* – [kæmˈpeɪn]), *aigh* (*straight* – [streɪt]), *ay* (*relay* – [riːˈleɪ]), *ea* (*steak* – [steɪk]), *ee* or *ée* (*matinee* – [ˈmætneɪ], *entrée* – [ˈɒntreɪ] or [ˈɑːntreɪ]), *ei* (*abseil* – [ˈæbseɪl]), *eig* (*reign* – [reɪn]), *eight* (*freight* – [freɪt]), *er* (*foyer* – [ˈfɔɪeɪ]), *et* (*gourmet* – [ˈɡʊəmeɪ]), *ey* (*fey* – [feɪ]), *oa* (*gaol* – [dʒeɪl]), *uet* (*bouquet* – [buːˈkeɪ]). The sound [eɪ] can be placed in the zero (*Eh* – [eɪ]), initial (*eight* – [eɪt]), middle (*tame* – [teɪm]) and final (*bay* – [beɪ]) position of words. The diphthong [eɪ] is represented by six letters (*a, e, h, j, k, é*), three of which are vowels and three are consonants, five are English and one is French, by 17 graphic combinations of letters (*ae, ag, ai, aig, aigh, ay, ea, ee, ée, ei, eig, eight, er, et, ey, oa, uet*). In nine cases, this phoneme is formed in spelling by combinations of vowel letters (*ae, ai, ay, ea, ee, ée, ei, ey, oa*) and in eight cases – by combinations of vowel and consonant letters (*ag, aig, aigh, eig, eight, er, et, uet*).

The research allowed us to work out and prepare for publishing a guide-book of drills containing lists of words formed by means of ABC letters and their combinations used to denote the English sounds.

The results of the scientific analysis persuade us that the presented material can be effective in the educational process rendered by teachers at educational institutions, organizations carrying out education and by individual entrepreneurs when explaining the articulation of English phonemes via graphic spelling of letters and their combinations to students. Demonstrating the data of the study to learners can facilitate their understanding the problem of English alphabet letter combinations representing the sounds used in the formation of lexical units [1] while practicing the pronunciation [19].

We assume that the ways of graphic spelling of the phonemes presented by us are not exhaustive because it is impossible to cover the whole spectrum of English language due to its constant development.

Конфликт интересов

Не указан.

Conflict of Interest

None declared.

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