

## LESSON NOTE ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE WEEK 1

**SUBJECT:** English Language  
**TOPIC:** Revision of the speech sounds  
**CLASS:** JS3  
**WEEK:** 1

### Introduction

The English alphabet is made up of twenty-six (26) letters. These letters are divided into vowels and consonants. There are five (5) vowel letters (a,e,i,o,u) and these letters are used to realize twenty-five (25) vowel sounds.

The 26 letters in the English Language are used for spelling while speech sounds are used for pronunciation.

### Speech Sounds

There are forty-four (44) speech sounds in the English Language. These sounds have to do with what we hear or what we pronounce, also, we use the 26 letters to represent the words we hear or pronounce. The speech sounds are grouped into two:

- (1) 20 vowels
- (2) 24 consonants

### Vowel sounds

The English vowel sounds are speech sounds produced by shaping the mouth so as to allow free passage of air through the mouth from the lungs without any obstruction.

### Classification of vowel sounds

There are twenty-five (25) vowel sounds in the English sound system. They are grouped into two:

- a) Twelve (12) monophthongs or pure vowels
- b) Eight (8) diphthongs

### Monophthongs or pure vowels

The monophthongs or pure vowel are speech sounds that use single phonetic symbol to represent an oral sound and has only one sound. They are made up of short and long vowels.

Phonetic symbols used to represent the vowel sounds:

- /ɪ / - ink, ship, bit, shrimp
- /e/ - pen, men, head, nest
- /æ/ - ban, sat, plan, stand
- /ɒ/ or /ɔ/ - pot, hot, lock, mop
- /ʊ/ - cook, book, look, took
- /ʌ / - cut, shut, blood, country

/ə/ - about, ago, along, letter, teacher

/i:/ - kneel, sheep, sea, phoenix

/ɜ:/ - bird, her, word, heard

/ɑ:/ - car, bark, heart, market

/ʊ:/ - spoon, blue, fool, food

/ɔ:/ - core, short, stall, fall

### Diphthong

A diphthong is realised when a vowel sound production starts or glides at one point and ends at another and they are usually represented using two vowel sounds.

Phonetic symbols used to represent diphthongs:

/eɪ/ - bay, weight, make, plain

/aɪ/ - eye, style, fry, might

/ɔɪ/ - foil, annoy, moist, ploy

/aʊ/ - cow, house, fowl, loud

/əʊ/ - boat, flow, stole, cold

/ɪə/ - ear, here, fear, near

/eə/ - heir, hair, air, chair

/ʊə/ - tour, sewer, fewer, pure

Five (5) triphthongs

### Triphthongs

A triphthong is a glide (movement) from one vowel to another and then to a third vowel all produced quickly without a pause in between the vowels.

Phonetic symbols used to represent triphthongs:

/eɪ+/ə/ - player, chaos, betraval, payer

/aɪ/ +/ə/ - hire, choir, quiet, reliant

/ɔɪ/ +/ə/ - employer, royal, joyous, buoyant

/əʊ/ +/ə/ - slower, lower, blower, growers

/aʊ/ +/ə/ - hour, flower, sour, vowel

### **HOMEWORK**

From the words lettered A to D, choose the word that has the same sound as the one represented by the letter(s) underlined.

1. Lean

- A. Sin
- B. Peal
- C. Fly
- D. Slim

2. Palm
- A. What
  - B. Tile
  - C. Crew
  - D. Far

3. Jot
- A. Fought
  - B. mob
  - C. Lose
  - D. Bold

4. Swift
- A. Tip
  - B. Pile
  - C. Sew
  - D. Pleat

5. Look
- A. Core
  - B. Pull
  - C. Loop
  - D. Shoe

6. Pace
- A. Raise
  - B. Aisle
  - C. Asthma
  - D. Angles

7. Feeble
- A. Climb
  - B. Dumb
  - C. Debt
  - D. Snob

8. Time
- A. Faint
  - B. Pestle
  - C. Rhyme

D. Castle

9. Net

A. Knit

B. Think

C. Hang

D. Sing

10. Bath

A. Thyme

B. Faith

C. Clothe

D. write