Diphthongs in English.

There are eight diphthongs in English. Diphthongs are sounds which consist of a movement of glide from one vowel to another. Perhaps the most important thing to remember about all the diphthongs is that the first part is much longer and stronger than the second part. Take /ai/ as an example. Most of this diphthong consists of the [a] vowel, and only in about the last quarter of the diphthong does the glide to [i] begin. As the glide to [i] happens, the loudness of the sound decreases. As a result, the [i] part is shorter and quieter. The English diphthongs can be shown in the following diagram:
The following is a description of the eight English diphthongs.

/ɪə ɛə ʊə /

/ɪə ɛə ʊə/ are called centring diphthongs because they all glide towards the /a/ (schwa) vowel, as the symbols indicate. The starting point for /ɪə/ is a little closer than /ɪ/ in bit, bin. /ɛə/ begins with the similar vowel sound as the /e/ of get, men. /ʊə/ has a starting point slightly closer than /ʊ/ in put, pull.

/ei aɪ ɔɪ /

/ei aɪ ɔɪ/ the three diphthongs that glide towards /i/. /ei/ begins with the same vowel sound as the /e/ of get, men. /aɪ/ begins with an open vowel which is between front and back; it is quite similar to the /ʌ/ in words like cut, bun. The starting point of /ɔɪ/ is a little more open than /ɔː:/ in ought, born. The closing diphthongs have the characteristic that they all end with a glide towards a closer vowel. Because the second part of the diphthong is weak, they often do not reach a position that could be called close. The important thing is that a glide from a relatively more open towards a relatively closer vowel is produced.

/əʊ ɔʊ /

/əʊ ɔʊ/ are the two diphthongs that end with a glide towards /ʊ/. So as the tongue moves closer to the roof of the mouth there is at the same time a rounding movement of the lips. This movement is not a large one, again because the second part of the diphthong is weak. The vowel position for the beginning of /əʊ/ is the same as for the "schwa" vowel /a/. The lips may be slightly rounded in anticipation of the glide towards /ʊ/, for which there is quite a noticeable lip-rounding. /ɔʊ/ begins with a vowel similar to /ɑː/ but a little more front. There is slight lip-rounding during the glide towards /ʊ/. 
Practice

/ ɪə /
tear
near
fear
clear
dear, deer
beer
steer
sneer
jeer
merely
eerie
revere
dreamy
queerly
India
delirious
experience
salubrious
tear
shear, sheer
here, hear
weir, we're
mere
cleared
rear
beard
endearing
bleary
lugubrious
mysterious
appearing
nuclear
Julius
interior
salubrious
cheer
year
sheer, sheer
queer
freer
seer, sear, sere
sphere
serious
weird
superior
inferior
interfere
imperious
series
cereal, serial
fearless

Don't put your beard in the beer, not even if it's near beer, which isn't real beer, and isn't dear.
A series of mysterious crimes, some serious, appear to have been committed near here, I fear.

It's clear that some will cheer and others will jeer when the peer speaks. Though his eyes are
bleary and his voice is queer, he's really a superior person with much experience, gained
through years and years of serious study, not merely of theory.

We're near the end of the year.
After her dreary ordeal she was tearful but soon became cheerful.
He spoke the speech from King Lear in a clear voice, and the audience cheered and cried
"Hear, hear!"
Steer clear of the pier, dear.
Clear that rubbish out of here and don't put it anywhere near.

/ eə /
air, heir,
chair
lair
laird
care
rare
pear, pair
scarce
bare, bear
wear, where, ware
tear (rend), tare
hair, hare
stair, stare      share      there, their
fair, fare       flare      scarce
square          mares, mayor
careless        repair      various
despairing      airy        unbearable
impair          scarecrow   beware
hairy           scarcely    questionnaire
fairy           Aquarius    aeroplane
compare         aquarium    commissionaire
dairy           hardware

There, that's the square where the fair will be held. It'll be opened by the Mayor, who is already carefully preparing to do his share. It'll be a rare treat to see him enter on a mare, wearing his chain of office. That's more than you'd dare to do, I'm prepared to swear. You'd be scared of riding on a mare to the fair.
   The heir took care to put out a chair for his uncle, who scarcely thanked him.
   Would you dare to go to the lair of that hairy bear?
   It's not fair to stare at Claire on the stairs, nor at the dress she wears, for she's shy and doesn't care to be stared at.
   You should wear a pair of trousers that will put up with wear and tear.
   Mr. Clare has a flair for rare antiques.

/ uə /

poor          lure     moor
sure          cure     truer
tour          dual, duel newer
doer, dour    steward  sewer
pure          fuel     jewel
fewer          brewer

manual        mercurial endure
conjure        injurious mural
furious        individual rural
obscure        reviewer manure
curious        residual luxurious
allure          casual
spurious        jury
The doctor wasn’t sure that he could cure the poor steward of his obscure illness, but the
attacks became fewer and fewer as time passed.

The tourists were out on the moor when the coach ran out of fuel, which made them furious.
The reviewer, who couldn’t endure obscure poetry, claimed the poem was spurious.
"This beer's quite pure,' said the brewer, 'but we must let it mature, or else it'll be a poor
brew."
The furious cooks fought a curious duel with skewers.

Casual manual labour isn’t injurious to the individual who can endure heavy work.
Your roses need pure manure to make them mature.
The jury were sure the poor man was innocent of stealing the jewels.
These newer attractions are sure to lure the tourists.

/ æ /

age   aim   tray
ache  aid   say
ape   frail  slay
fate  paid  pay
late  raid  bray
same  laid  bate, bait
name  sable tale, tail
race  mange waste, waist
frame  haste hail, hale
came  strange mane, main
snake  cradle chaste, chased
grape  taste male, mail
wave  eight gate, gait
shame  freight vane, vain, vein
shave  hay pray, prey

favour  abrade to co-ordinate
afraid  cavalcade earthquake
lazy   major to animate
amaze  available contemplate
to estimate basis sleight
to deliberate mitigate ancient
to moderate populate arrange
basin  basement
radiant  declaim
James hates people taking his name in vain.

Eight grave grey apes were eating grapes without haste. The flavour of the grapes made the apes say: "Hey! We're glad we came to taste these grapes today.'

The main game that apes play is that of chasing their neighbours and shaking their tails.

In spite of his age, he has neither aches nor pains.

Our maid Maisie makes mistakes but she never breaks plates, and isn't lazy. The other day Major Clay came to stay with us, and Maisie thought he was her fiancé, for they have the same gait, Major Clay and the fiancé, Joe May, the baker's boy. So Maisie made straight for the Major and embraced him, to his amazement. When she saw her mistake, she hastened away, but the Major was gay for the test of the day.

/ aɪ /

mild    sigh    flies
kind    height    fry
bind    thigh    I, eye
mind, mined    slight, sleight    thyme, time
wind    sky    rhyme
high    skies

delight    wild    idle, idol
bicycle    while    tie
tricycle    night, knight    lie
deny    bright    despite
surprise    flight    syphon (or: siphon)
advertise    might, mite    despise
decline    right, rite, write    silence
syren, siren    try    quite
blind    shy    shiny
signed    cry    recline
find    by, buy, bye    sniper
isle    dye, die

Ice in my nice wine? No, no ice. Ice in wine is not nice. Iced wine's a vice. Fine wine is not nice with ice. I won't deny I like wine. I do like wine. I delight in the tight wine. The tight wine lit the right time. And the time, you know, is always right for wine. Whether it's five or nine or any other time, it's always time for wine for a civilized mind. Drink wine and learn to rhyme.
nine and wine and rhyme and time. A rhyme in time saves nine, Drink, some fine Cyprus wine and praise the vine that grew the wine. Nine ripe wines in a line make time fly. Time flies anyhow. I might deny that time flies, but I won't, tonight. Time flies but I don't. Why the time flies neither mice nor men know. Why doesn't ice fly and time melt? I don't know why, so pass the wine and try to pass the time. Pour some time into my wine and I'll live to the nine hundred and ninety-nine before I die.

/ɔɪ/

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annoy     enjoy          recoil
ointment  deploy         despoil
oily      employ         poison
oyster    rejoice        moisture
boisterous exploit (noun)
hoity-toity exploit (verb)

It's a joy to watch the boy playing with his toys.
That noisy boy has a voice that's most annoying. His only way of enjoying himself is to make a noise.
What sort of a noise would a noisy, annoyed oyster make?
The oily voice of the lawyer spoilt our enjoyment of the play.
We must leave the choice to the fall of a coin.
To avoid rheumatism, anoint your joints with an oily ointment.
Plant those royal lilies in moist soil.
Don't spoil the joint by boiling.
The employer exploited his employees and foisted all sorts of toil on them.
/ aʊ /

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John Brown's been to town. Now, in town he found an owl, a towel, and a trowel. Don't scowl: he really did buy an owl, a stuffed owl, an elegant fowl. That stuffed brown owl will stand on his mantelpiece, with a stuffed brown mouse in its foul beak. Brown's dog Towser will growl when he sees that owl, and the baby'll howl. Towser's a sound dog, a bouncing hound who covers the ground by leaps and bounds. I haven't found out how much Brown paid for that owl, but the amount was doubtless large. Oh hello, Brown, how are you? And where's Towser? Ah, Towser? Down, Towser, down! Brown, stop Towser! Towser's growling and tearing my trousers, Towser, you clown, get down! Go and tear your master's trousers, Brown's trousers.

/ əʊ /

<p>| home | Rome, roam | slow, sloe |
| tone | oak | know, no |
| hope | oaf | hold, holed |
| nose, knows | boat | fold, foaled |
| bone | boast | ghost |
| note | moan | though |
| choke | glow | dough, doe |
| rope | show, shew | groan |
| joke | blow | soak |</p>
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Don't you know, Rover's got no bone? What, no bone for Rover? Rover won't stay at home unless Rover's got a bone. Joe, go to Jones the butcher's and get a bone lest poor Rover groan and leave home. Phone? No, don't phone - go. If you go they'll show you bones galore, for they've oceans of bones below where it's cold. They've sold bones since Bonaparte died, so they know good bones from mouldy old bones. Take Rover with you, Joe. Rover too knows a good bone when he sees one. Buy him a bone that weighs half a stone.