

Modern English Phonology

The unstressed e [ə]

- sente → sent
- keepen → keep
- bookes → books
- likes [li:kes] → [laiks]
- stopped [stoped] → [stopt]

- When the root vowel was long, the letter ‘e’ at the end of the word was still written.
- ‘mute’ e appeared.
- There were some words in which ‘mute’ e was added to the end although it had never been there: ston → stone, bon → bone.

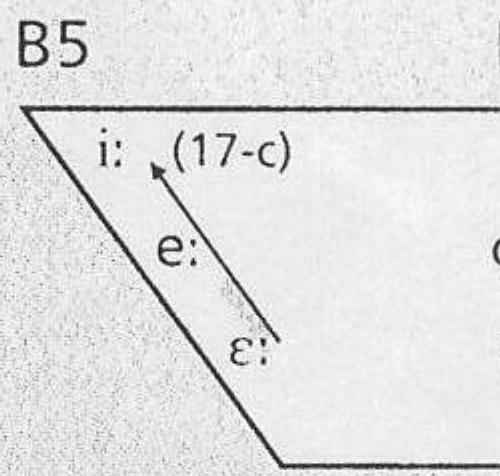
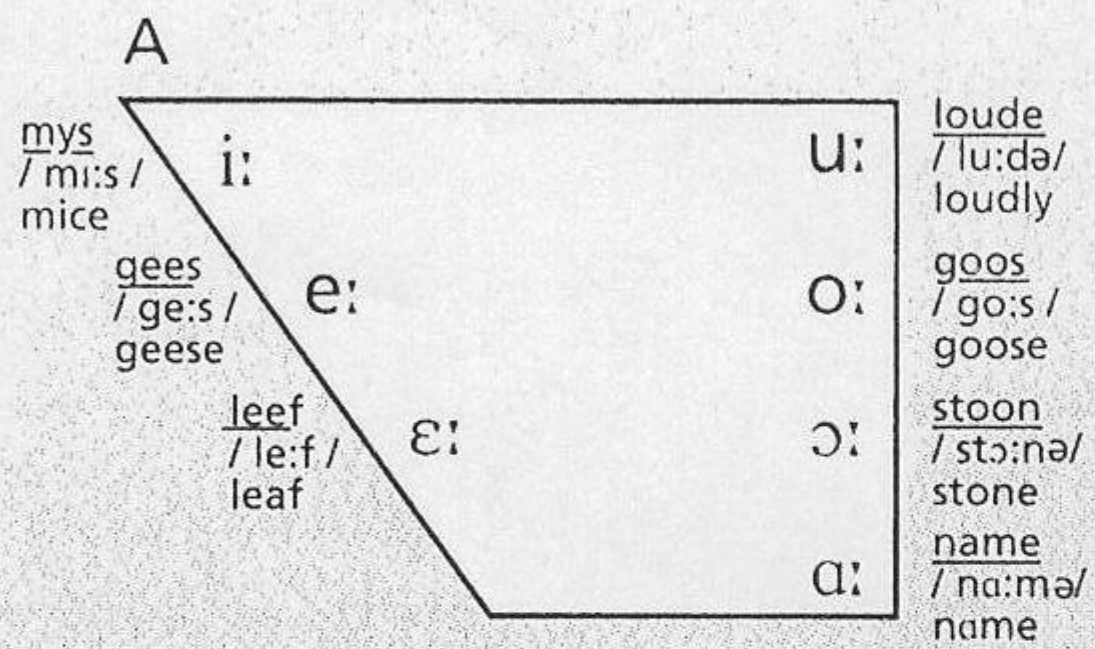
The Great Vowel Shift

- The Great Vowel Shift was a massive sound change affecting the long vowels of English during the fifteenth to eighteenth centuries.
- The long vowels were either narrowed or diphthongized.

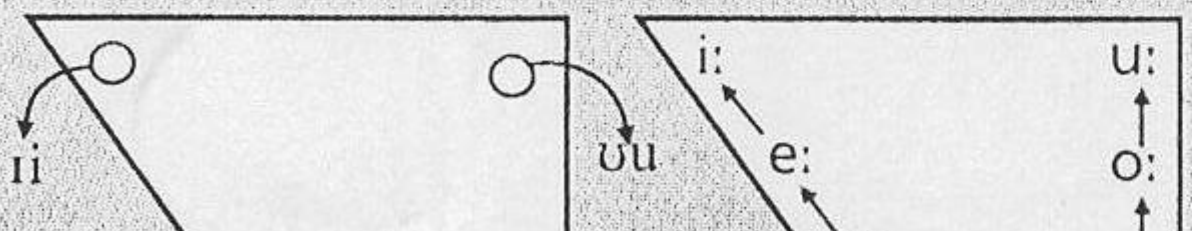
The mid-open and open long vowels were narrowed, thus they became closed.

- The narrowing of the closed vowels caused their diphthongization.
- NB! The Great vowel shift did not affect spelling.

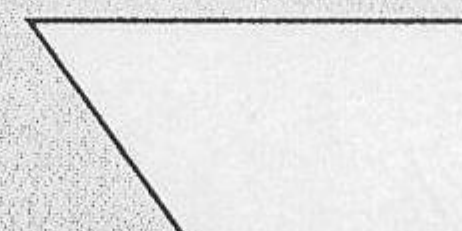
- Basically, the long vowels shifted upwards; that is, a vowel that used to be pronounced in one place in the mouth would be pronounced in a different place, higher up in the mouth.



C Pull Chain



D Push



A

mys
/mi:s/
mice

i:

gees
/ge:s/
geese

e:

leef
/le:f/
leaf

ɛ:

u:

loude
/lu:də/
loudly

o:

goos
/go:s/
goose

ɔ:

ston
/stɔ:nə/
stone

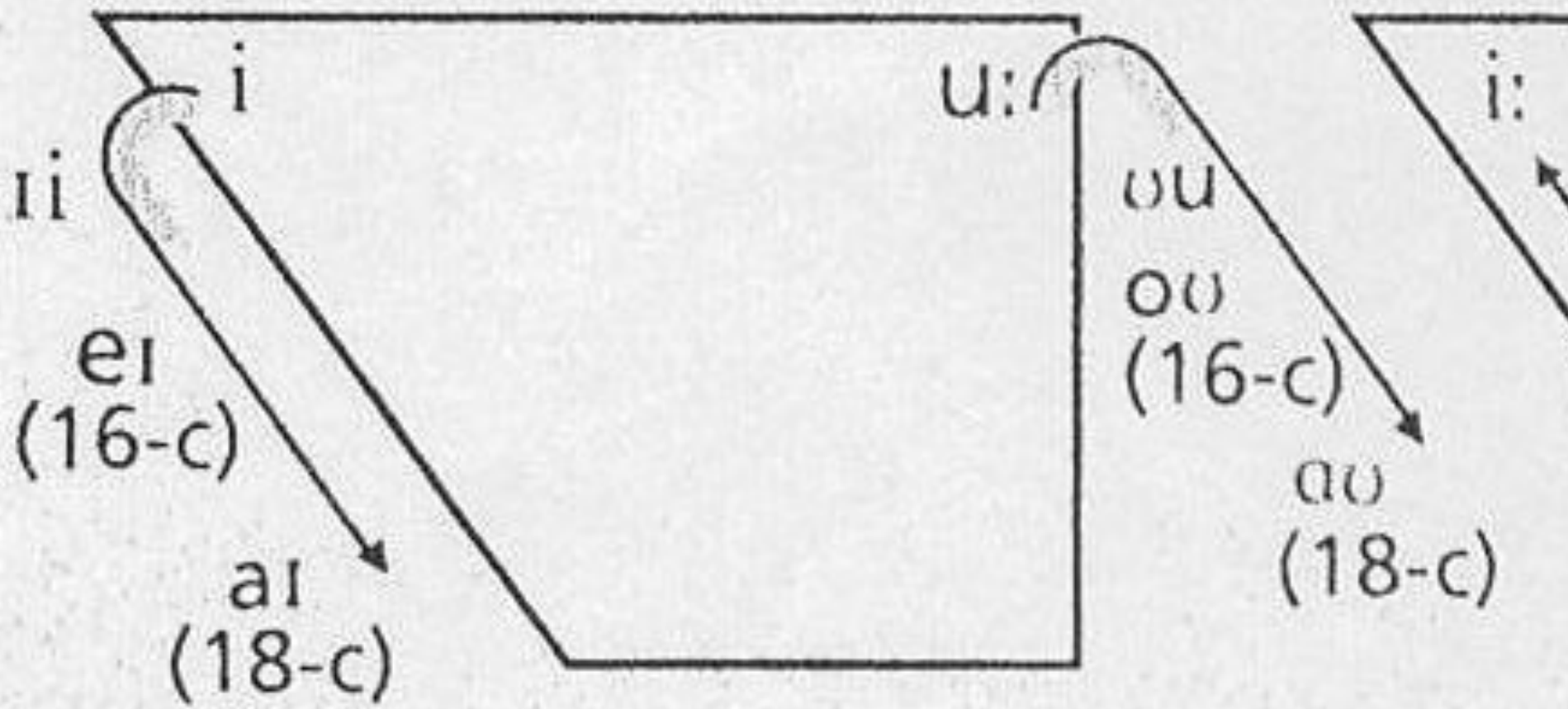
ɑ:

name
/nɑ:mə/
name

B1

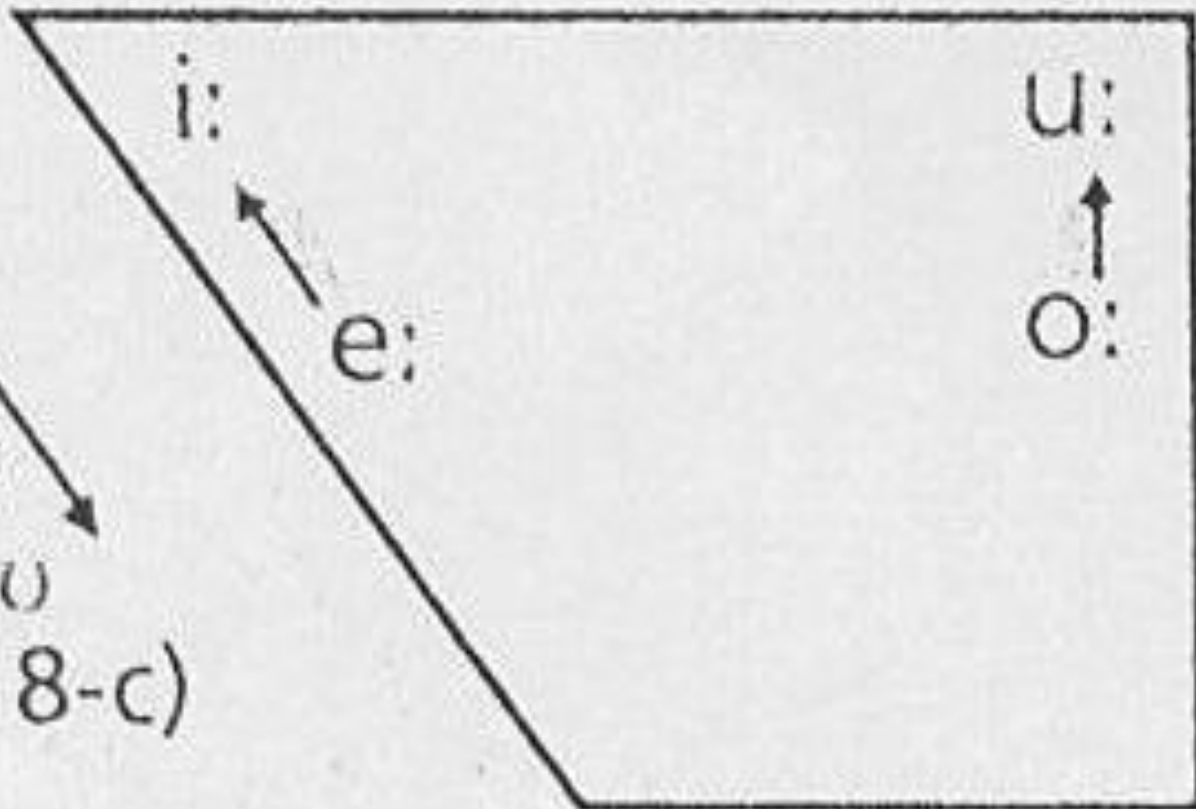
B2

B3



B3

B4

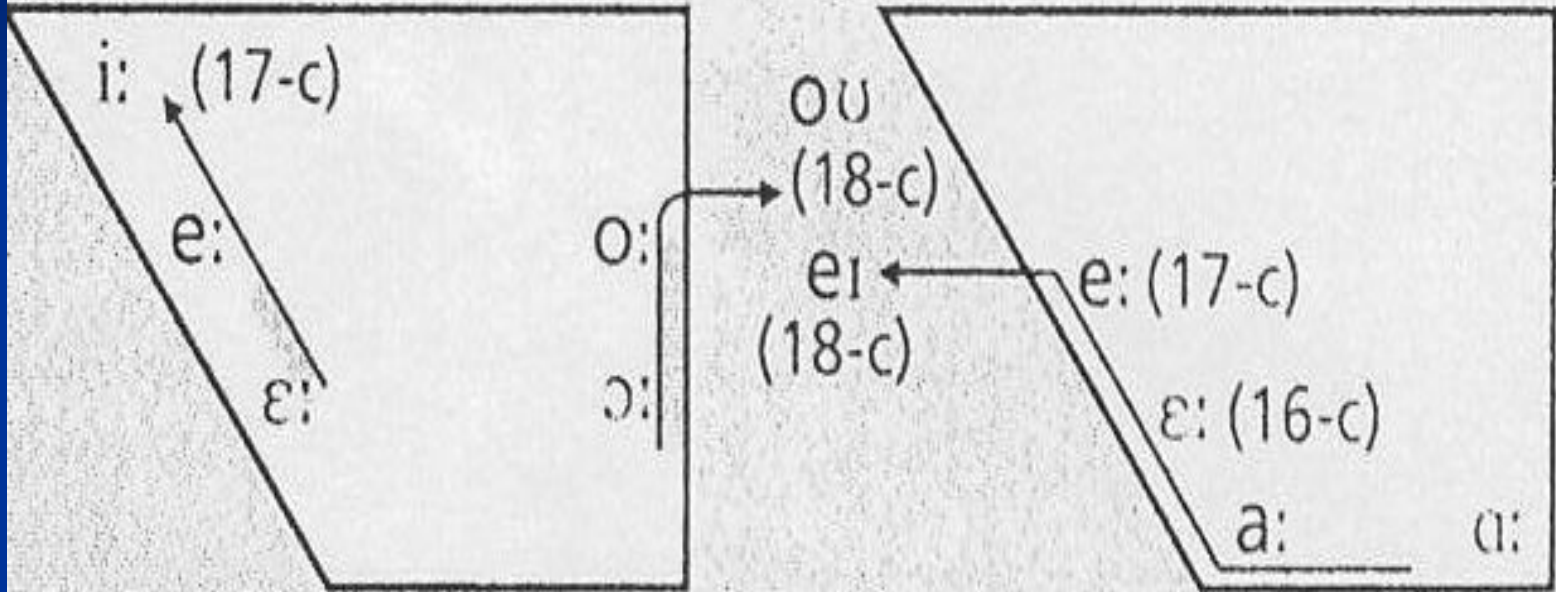


e)
au
18-c)

B5

B6

B7



ai	←	i:	i:	i:			u:	u:	→	au
			↑	↑			↑			
			e:	e:	ei	ou	o:			
				↑	↑	↑				
				ɛ:	a:	ɔ:				

- i: → ai time [ti:me] → [taim]
- e: → i: keep [ke:p] → [ki:p]
- **ɛ:** → e: → i: sea [s**ɛ:**] → [se:] → [si:]
- a: → ei name
- ɔ: → ou go
- o: → u: moon
- u: → au out

- The process of change was gradual. Each stage took more than 100 years.

	<i>XV c.</i>	<i>XVI c.</i>	<i>XVII c.</i>	<i>XVIII c.</i>
<i>a:</i>	<i>æ:</i>	<i>ɛ:</i>	<i>e:</i>	<i>ei</i>

- OE [ǣ] → ME [ɛ:] → [e:] (XVI c.) → [i:] (XVII c.)
- ea [i:] ← [e:] ← [ɛ:]
- ee [i:] ← [e:]

XIV c.	XV c.	XVI c.	XVII c.
[me:t] meet	[mi:t] meet	[mi:t] meet	[mi:t] meet
[m ɛ:t] meet	[m ɛ:t] meet	[me:t] meat	[mi:t] meat

Shortening of the long vowels

1. Before [d, t, θ]

- [ɛ:] → [e]: breed → bread

2. Before [v, d, ð]

- [u:] → [ʊ]: glove [glu:ve] → [glʊv], blood ...
- Before [k]: book [bu:k] → [bʊk]

The development of some long vowels

1) [a] → [a:]

- before 'r' and voiceless fricatives: **hard, fast, path**
- 'al' before 'm, f': **calm, half**

2) [ɔ] → [ɔ:] before 'r': lord [l ɔ:d]

[ou] → [ɔ:] before ght: brought [brɔ:t]

3) [ə:] was the result of the vocalization of 'r' after [i, e, u]: first [fə:st], her, turn (in the XVI c.)

Changes of *i* in the system of short vowels

- There appeared two short vowels [æ, ʌ]:
- [a] → [æ]: land [land] → [lænd]
- [u] → [ʌ]: glove [gluv] → [glʌv]
run [run] → [rʌn]

No change took place if [u] followed labial consonants: **put, full, bush**. *But : but, fun.*

New diphthongs

- They appeared as the result of the vocalization of 'r' between two vowels:
 - are **care** [ka:rə] → [kɛə]
 - ere **here** [he:rə] → [hiə]

- Variant 1
- Какие события в экономической жизни английского общества способствовали формированию национального английского национального языка?
- В связи с чем влияние французского языка на английский оказывается наиболее сильным во второй половине XIV в.?

- Variant 2
- По каким причинам восточнонидландский диалект становится основой для национального языка?
- Какие языки оказывают сильное влияние на развитие английского языка в эпоху Возрождения? Почему?

- Variant 3
- Какие события в политической жизни английского общества способствовали формированию национального английского национального языка?
- Какую реакцию вызвало «наводнение» английского языка латинизмами?

- Variant 4
- В чем, по мнению А.И. Смирницкого, заключается вклад Дж. Чосера, Дж. Уиклифа, У. Кэскстона в формирование национального английского языка?
- С какими событиями связано расширение области распространения английского языка в XVI-XVII вв.?