

Triphthongs

A triphthong (**TRI**, *three times*, **PTHONGOS**, *sound*) is a prolonged vocal sound, in uttering which the tongue moves through three different vowel positions. The word *guay* (oh/) contains a triphthong. It is the middle element *a* which is most prolonged, the *u* element and the *y* being very short, that is, pronounce the *ay* as before indicated and make a short *u* sound precede it. So *busy* (ax) contains a triphthong, of which the middle element *e* is prolonged.