

LECCION PRIMERA

7

2nd. class of diphthongs.

NOTE J.— In all the preceding diphthongs, the first element is short and weak. We now come to a class of diphthongs in which the first element is prolonged, the second being short. Of such nature is the English pronoun *I* (*ai*).

ai or *ay* (like English *ai* in *aisle*), hay, aire (*there is, air*)

ei or *ey* (nearly like *ei* in *vein*) veinte, rey, (*twenty, king*)

oi or *oy* (like *oi* in *oil*) soy, sois, doy, voy, (*am, art, give, go*)

NOTE K.— The *ai* and *oi* are well pronounced by a certain class of Londoners, who bring out the final *i* element quite distinctly. The *ei* is somewhat similar to *ai*, but begins with the sound *e* (*ay*). It is likewise well pronounced by Londoners in words like *vein* (almost *vay-een* but as one syllable). The final element of the above three diphthongs, being short, never bears an accent. When therefore any of these combinations of letters are written with an accent on the final letter, they must not be blended, but pronounced separately, e. g. *caída* (*a fall*).

Other combinations of vowels do not blend and form diphthongs, however rapidly they are pronounced.

Ma-és-tro, de-se-ár, ba-úl, aún,
Master, to desire, trunk, yet, still,

La carta es blanca. Él tiene una pluma.
The letter is white. He has a pen.

Él habla muy bien inglés. Él no habla alemán.
He speaks very well English. He not speaks German.

Yo deseo comer. Éste libro es bueno. La tierra es redonda.
I desire to eat. This book is good. The earth is round.

Es muy tarde. Yo deseo un vaso de agua. Él va á la puerta.
(It) is very late. I desire a glass of water. He goes to the door.

Yo no tengo tiempo de aprender el inglés. Adiós.
I not have time of to learn (the) English. Good bye.

Yo soy Inglés. El aire es bueno. Yo tengo veinte pesos.
I am an Englishman. The air is good. I have twenty dollars.

El va á enviar mi baúl á mi casa. Yo tengo cuidado.
He is going to send my trunk to my house. I have care (take care).

Mi padre y mi madre tienen mucho dinero.
My father and my mother have much money.

Con mucho gusto. Sin duda. El tiene su cuenta.
With much pleasure. Without doubt. He has his account.

Yo sé pocas palabras. Basta por hoy. (6)
I know a few words. Enough for to-day.

(6) Do not aspirate the *h*.