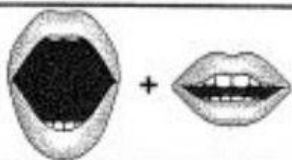


PRONOUNCING [aʊ]



[aʊ]

Lips: Glide from an open position**Jaw:** Rises with the tongue and closes**Tongue:** Glides from low to high near the roof of the mouth

[aʊ] is a diphthong. A diphthong is a compound vowel sound made by blending two vowels together very quickly. [aʊ] begins with [a] and ends with [ʊ].

Possible Pronunciation Problems

[aʊ] should be easy for you to pronounce if you remember it is a diphthong, which is a combination of two vowel sounds. [aʊ] is a combination of the sounds [a] and [ʊ]. Be sure your lips glide from a wide, open position to a closed one, or you might simply be pronouncing the vowel [a].

EXAMPLES If you say [a] instead of [aʊ]: **pound** will sound like **pond**.
down will sound like **Don**.

[aʊ] is always represented by the letter *o* followed by *u*, *w*, or *ugh*.

You won't have many doubts about which words include the sound [aʊ]!