Diphthongs

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: A **diphthong** is a vowel sound that **glides** from one sound to another: b**oy**, c**oi**n, h**ou**se, c**ow**. Usually **oi** and **ou** come in the **middle** of a word, and **oy** and **ow** come at the **end**.

Rule of thumb: middle → oi, ou · end → oy, ow (but ow can be in the middle too: town, crown).



1. oi or oy?

Circle the correct spelling.

1. My little brother got a new t_____ truck. (oy) (oi)
2. I found a shiny c_____n on the sidewalk. (oy) (oi)
3. Water b_____ls at 100 degrees Celsius. (oi) (oy)
4. We had so much j_____ at the party. (oi) (oy)

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2. ou or ow?

Circle the correct spelling.

1. The c_____ said moo in the barn. (ou) (ow)
2. A m_____se ran under the table. (ow) (ou)
3. Please speak l_____der so I can hear you. (ow) (ou)
4. The king wore a gold cr_____n. (ow) (ou)
5. A dark cl_____d covered the sun. (ou) (ow)

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3. Sort the sounds

Which sound do you hear? Circle oy (as in boy) or ow (as in cow).

1	point	oy sound	ow sound
2	shout	oy sound	ow sound
3	enjoy	oy sound	ow sound
4	flower	oy sound	ow sound
5	noise	oy sound	ow sound
6	mouth	oy sound	ow sound

Answer Key

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1. oi or oy?

1. My little brother got a new t**oy** truck. — **oy** / oi
2. I found a shiny c**oi**n on the sidewalk. — oy / **oi**
3. Water b**oi**ls at 100 degrees Celsius. — **oi** / oy
4. We had so much j**oy** at the party. — oi / **oy**

2. ou or ow?

1. The c**ow** said moo in the barn. — ou / **ow**
2. A m**ou**se ran under the table. — ow / **ou**
3. Please speak l**ou**der so I can hear you. — ow / **ou**
4. The king wore a gold cr**ow**n. — **ow** / ou
5. A dark cl**ou**d covered the sun. — **ou** / ow

3. Sort the sounds

1. point — **oy sound** / ow sound
2. shout — oy sound / **ow sound**
3. enjoy — **oy sound** / ow sound
4. flower — oy sound / **ow sound**
5. noise — **oy sound** / ow sound
6. mouth — oy sound / **ow sound**