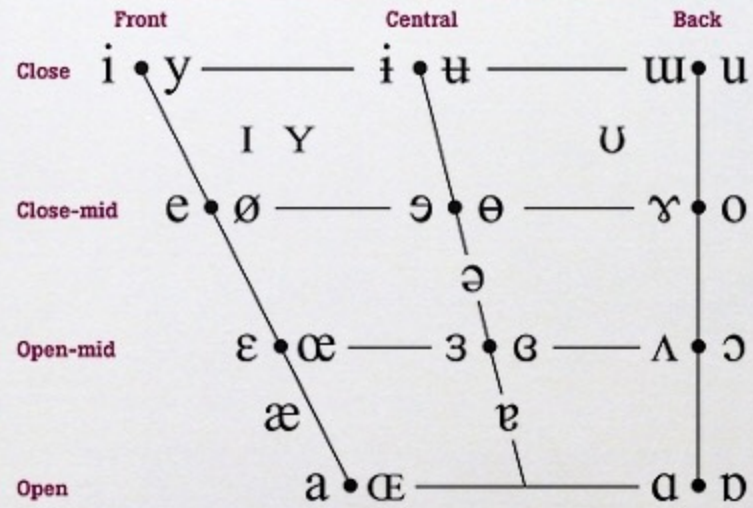


The International Phonetic Alphabet: Vowels

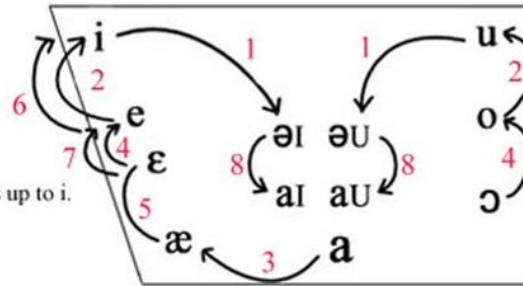
Where symbols appear in pairs, the symbol on the right represents a rounded vowel.



The Great Vowel Shift

- A chain shift of the way long vowels were pronounced in English that evolved over hundreds of years.
- Spans from 12th to 18th century, but most drastic shifts occur between the 15th - 16th centuries.
- Measured in "8 Steps" of phonetic change:

Step 1: i and u drop and become θI and θU
Step 2: e and o move up, becoming i and u
Step 3: a moves forward to æ
Step 4: ϵ becomes e, o becomes o
Step 5: æ moves up to ϵ
Step 6: e moves up to i
A new e was created in Step 4; now that e moves up to i.
Step 7: ϵ moves up to e
The new ϵ created in Step 5 now moves up.
Step 8: θI and θU drop to aI and aU



The Great English Vowel Shift

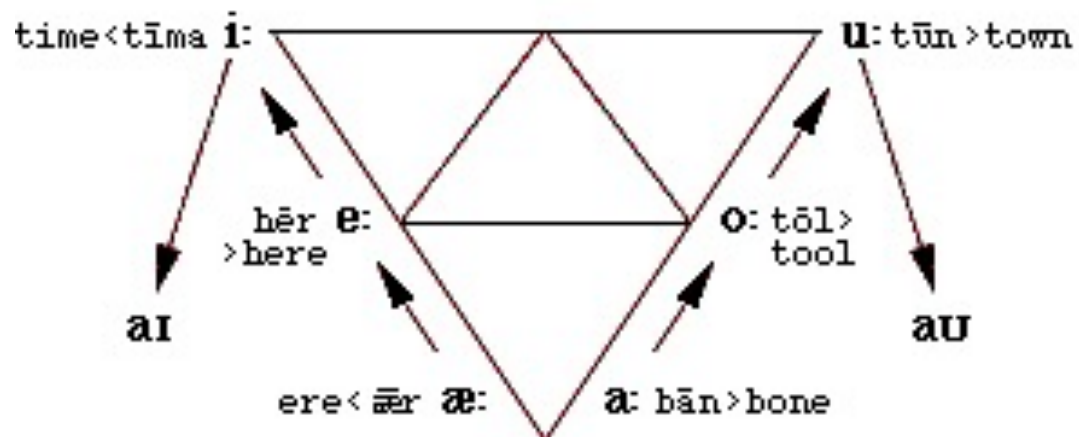
- A sound change that happened between Middle English (ME) and Early Modern English (EME)
 - Around the 15th century
- Produced a rotation in the ME long vowel system
- E.g. the front vowels show the following evolution:

Pronunciation:	Chaucer	Shakespeare	Modern
bite	/bi:tə/	/beit/	[bait]
beet	/be:tə/	/bi:t/	[bi:t, bijt]
beat	/be:tə/	/be:t/	[bi:t, bijt]
abate	/a'ba:tə/	/ə'baɛ:t/	[ə'beit]

(Jespersen 1909)

The Great Vowel Shift

(Involving Long Vowels Only)



Retention of Short Vowels

