

## Re: Long vs. short vowels in English

**Source:** <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2004-07/2495.html>

---

**From:** Bart Mathias ([bartmathias\\_at\\_verizon.net](mailto:bartmathias_at_verizon.net))

**Date:** 07/21/04

Date: Wed, 21 Jul 2004 01:22:58 GMT

Mxsmanic wrote:

> *John Atkinson writes:*

>

>

>> *None of my references mention this as a possible realisation of this vowel*

>> *in any variety of North American English. Are you sure you're not Scots?*

>

>

> *I'm not. Are phonologists certain that this is really a diphthong? The*

> *second vowel must be extraordinarily faint.*

Doesn't take a phonologist! Ask any teacher of foreign languages to Americans. Getting rid of that diphthong in the beginner's pronunciation of Spanish or Japanese or etc. is a major problem.

Bart Mathias