



发音 Fāyīn

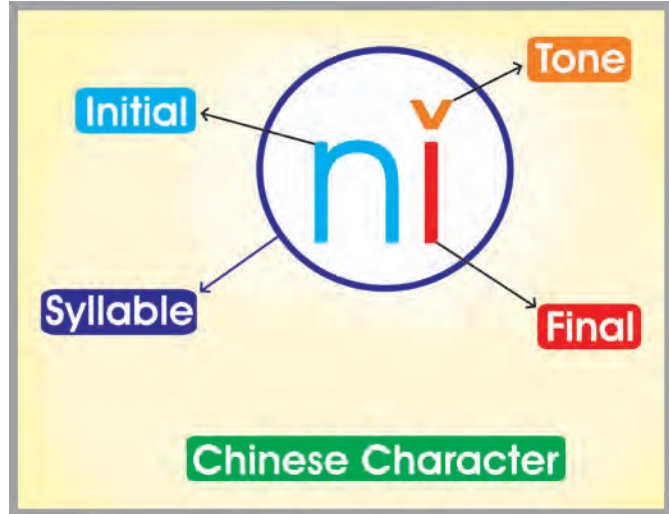
Chinese Pronunciation

LESSON

02

Picto - Phonetic aspect of the language

Chinese language is a picto phonetic language, meaning there is a spoken part that is phonetic and a written part that is Chinese characters, which is pictographic. The characters are called Han Zi (汉字). Chinese language doesn't have alphabet. Every word is represented by a character. In 1958, China officially adopted a system for expressing Chinese sounds using English alphabet (Romanization). This new system is called Pīn Yīn (literally - spell and sound). This system is adopted universally for Chinese language learning.



What is Pīn Yīn?

Pīnyīn is a method of expressing Chinese sounds using English alphabet (Romanization). When you express Chinese sound in Pīnyīn it becomes syllable. A Chinese syllable is usually composed of an initial, a final and a tone. Former is a consonant that begins with the syllable (Initial-consonants) and the latter is the rest of syllable (Final-vowels).

Introduction to Syllable

Chinese syllable consists of **Initial + Final + Tone**.

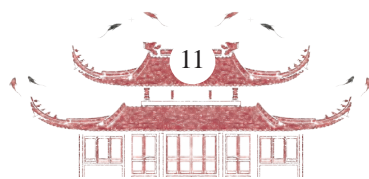
Nǐ – N is initial and i is final.

Hǎo – H is Initial and ao is final.

Initials - There are 21 Initials.

b	p	m	f
d	t	n	l
g	k	h	
j	q	x	
z	c	s	
zh	ch	sh	r
y	w		

Y and W are not regular Initials. That is sometimes they take the sound of the initials following them.

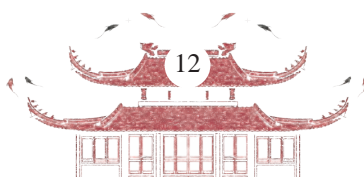


Pronunciation of Chinese sounds in English

Initial	English Pronunciation
a	same as “a” in “ask”
b	same as “p” in ‘purse’
c	same as “ts” in ‘tsunami’
d	same as “t” in ‘taiwan’
e	same as “a” in “away”
f	same as “f ” in “fan”
g	same as “k” in “king”
h	same as “h” in “hello”
i	same as “i” in “ink”
j	same as “ch” in “cheese”
k	close to “k”, in “khan”
l	same as “l” in “London”
m	same as “m” in “many”
n	same as “n” in “now”
o	same as “o” in “open”
p	close to “ph” in “phone”
q	chh
r	same as “r” in “rat”
s	same as “s” in “same”
t	same as “th” in “think”
u
v
w	same as “w” in “work”
x	same as “sh” in “shop”
y	same as “yi” in “yield”
z
ch
sh	same as “sh” in “shy”
zh	same as “ch” in “chat”

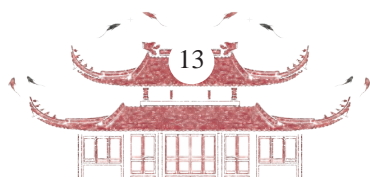
Finals - There are 36 Finals.

a	o	e	i	u	ü		
ai	ei	ao	ou	ia	ie	ua	uo
üe	iao	iou	uai	uei			
an	ian	uan	üan	en	in	uen	ün
ang	iang	uang	eng	ing	ueng	ong	iong
er							



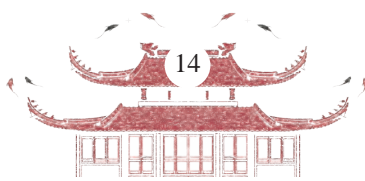
Mandarin Chinese Phonetic Chart

Final Initial	a	o	e	i	er	ai	ei	ao	ou	an	en	ang	eng	ong
b	ba	bo				bai	bei	bao		ban	ben	bang	beng	
p	pa	po				pai	pei	pao	pou	pan	pen	pang	peng	
m	ma	mo	me			mai	mei	mao	mou	man	men	mang	meng	
f	fa	fo					fei		fou	fan	fen	fang	feng	
d	da		de			dai	dei	dao	dou	dan	den	dang	deng	dong
t	ta		te			tai		tao	tou	tan		tang	teng	tong
n	na		ne			nai	nei	nao	nou	nan	nen	nang	neng	nong
l	la		le			lai	lei	lao	lou	lan		lang	leng	long
g	ga		ge			gai	gei	gao	gou	gan	gen	gang	geng	gong
k	ka		ke			kai	kei	kao	kou	kan	ken	kang	keng	kong
h	ha		he			hai	hei	hao	hou	han	hen	hang	heng	hong
j														
q														
x														
zh	zha		zhe	zhi		zhai	zhei	zhao	zhou	zhan	zhen	zhang	zheng	zhong
ch	cha		che	chi		chai		chao	chou	chan	chen	chang	cheng	chong
sh	sha		she	shi		shai	shei	shao	shou	shan	shen	shang	sheng	
r			re	ri				rao	rou	ran	ren	rang	reng	rong
z	za		ze	zi		zai	zei	zao	zou	zan	zen	zang	zeng	zong
c	ca		ce	ci		cai		cao	cou	can	cen	cang	ceng	cong
s	sa		se	si		sai		sao	sou	san	sen	sang	seng	song
					er									



Mandarin Chinese Phonetic Chart

Final Initial	i	ia	iao	ie	iou	ian	in	iang	ing	iong
b	bi		biao	bie		bian	bin		bing	
p	pi		piao	pie		pian	pin		ping	
m	mi		miao	mie	miu	mian	min		ming	
f										
d	di		diao	die	diu	dian			ding	
t	ti		tiao	tie		tian			ting	
n	ni		niao	nie	niu	nian	nin	niang	ning	
l	li	lia	liao	lie	liu	lian	lin	liang	ling	
g										
k										
h										
j	ji	jia	jiao	jie	jiu	jian	jin	jiang	jing	jiong
q	qi	qia	qiao	qie	qiu	qian	qin	qiang	qing	qiong
x	xi	xia	xiao	xie	xiu	xian	xin	xiang	xing	xiong
zh										
ch										
sh										
r										
z										
c										
s										
	yi	ya	yao	ye	you	yan	yin	yang	ying	yong



Mandarin Chinese Phonetic Chart

Final Initial	u	ua	uo	uai	uei	uan	uen	uang	ueng	ü	üe	üan	ün
b	bu												
p	pu												
m	mu												
f	fu												
d	du		duo		dui	duan	dun						
t	tu		tuo		tui	tuan	tun						
n	nu		nuo			nuan				nü	nüe		
l	lu		luo			luan	lun			lǚ	lüe		
g	gu	gua	guo	guai	gui	guan	gun	guang					
k	ku	kua	kuo	kuai	kui	kuan	kun	kuang					
h	hu	hua	huo	huai	hui	huan	hun	huang					
j										ju	jue	juan	jun
q										qu	que	quan	qun
x										xu	xue	xuan	xun
zh	zhu	zhua	zhuo	zhuai	zhui	zhuan	zhun	zhuang					
ch	chu	chua	chuo	chuai	chui	chuan	chun	chuang					
sh	shu	shua	shuo	shuai	shui	shuan	shun	shuang					
r	ru		ruo		ruì	ruan	run						
z	zu		zuo		zui	zuan	zun						
c	cu		cuo		cui	cuan	cun						
s	su		suo		sui	suan	sun						
	wu	wa	wo	wai	wei	wan	wen	wang	weng	yu	yue	yuan	yun



Concept on Monosyllabic, Disyllabic and Polysyllabic words

In Chinese language there exist Monosyllabic, Disyllabic and Polysyllabic words. This basically means that when a Chinese word is pronounced, it has one sound or two sounds or many sounds (Syllables). Along with the sound Chinese character also exists and has its own meaning.

Monosyllabic sound	Chinese Character	Meaning
hē	喝	To drink
shū	书	Book
chá	茶	Tea
Disyllabic sound	Chinese Character	Meaning
zhuōzi	桌子	Table
guójiā	国家	Country
xuéxiào	学校	School
Polysyllabic sound	Chinese Character	Meaning
pīngpāngqiú	乒乓球	PingPong -Table Tennis
shōu yīn jī	收音机	Radio

Pronunciation Exercise

Read aloud the following Initials.			
zh	ch	sh	r
z	c	s	-
j	q	x	-
g	k	h	-
d	t	n	l
b	p	m	f

Read aloud the following simple finals					
a	o	e	i	u	ü

Read aloud contrast sounds of the initials.		
z - j	c - q	s - x
z - zh	c - ch	s - sh
j - zh	q - ch	x - sh



Pīnyīn is the name for the system used to express Chinese words or Hànzì into the Roman Alphabet. Pīnyīn is used to make learning Chinese easier.

The use of Pīnyīn was first adopted in the 1950s by the Chinese government and it was adopted universally in 1979.

People who are learning Chinese use pīnyīn as starting point, since the complex written characters of the Chinese language can be challenging.

When studying Chinese words in Pīnyīn, it is important to remember that the letters of the words do not always correspond with English pronunciations.

In some cases, the sounds used in English do not appear in Chinese, so their representative letters have been adopted for other sounds.

In other instances, letter combinations like “xi” will give a unique sound, not found in English. This can be challenging for people who look at text in Pīnyīn, since it will be incomprehensible if the letters are just sounded out with an English pronunciation.

For native Chinese people the scope of Pīnyīn is very limited because their written language represents ideas and concepts more than sounds.

Chinese is a highly tonal language, so speakers need to know how to place the emphasis on a word, else they may pronounce the word wrong. In Pīnyīn, this emphasis may be indicated by the tone mark.

Writing or reading Chinese in Pīnyīn is a short term method for learning Chinese. Ultimately, learners will probably want to learn written Chinese so that they can understand the nuances of the language.

Learning to write Chinese Hànzì is essential when it comes to illustrating basic concepts of Chinese grammar and sentence construction.

Pīnyīn is a short term learning tool to communicate the basic sound of a word because overemphasis on characters, in the initial phase of learning can actually distract from learning and understanding the language.

A great thing about Pīnyīn is that it represents Mandarin speech simply and straightforwardly, so it makes it easy to focus on speech, on *communicating*, which is the most important purpose of language.

Gradually students should learn the Chinese characters and skip the Pīnyīn all together to advance and accelerate their Chinese learning.





Chinese National Flag

National Flag of China is bright red with five golden stars. The star on the left is larger than the other four, and it represents the Communist Party of China. The other four represent millions of Chinese people. The red colour represents the communist revolution led by the Communist Party of China. The entire flag symbolizes Chinese people overcoming all difficulties, defeating all enemies and invaders.

National Anthem

The National Anthem of the People's Republic of China is "March of the Volunteers." This song was composed by Niè Ěr and Tián Hàn in 1932 and adopted as a theme song in the movie "Children of Trouble Times" in 1935. On 27 September 1949, "March of the Volunteers" was adopted as national anthem.

