

The Chinese Phonetic Alphabet 汉语拼音

学习汉语的语音可以借助不同的拼音系统。我们所教授的汉语拼音方案是中国政府于 20 世纪 50 年代末制订的，在中国已经使用 40 多年了。

There have been many different systems of transcription used for learning to pronounce Chinese. Today the official transcription accepted on an international basis is the PINYIN alphabet developed in China at the end of the 1950's.

Initials 声母

汉语的音节是由声母和韵母两部分拼合而成的。音节开头的是声母,后边的是韵母。

A syllable in Chinese is composed of an initial, which is a consonant that begins the syllable, and a final, which covers the rest of the syllable.

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

- m, f, n, l, h and sh are pronounced as in English.
- d like “d” in “bed” (unaspirated)
- j like “g” in “genius” (unaspirated)
- z like “ds” in “beds”
- zh like “j” in “a job”
- b like “p” in “spin” (unaspirated)
- g a soft unaspirated “k” sound
- x like “sh” in “sheep” but with the corners of the lips drawn back
- r somewhat like “r” in “rain”
- Particular attention should be paid to the pronunciation of the so-called “aspirated” consonants. It is necessary to breath heavily after the consonant is pronounced.

p	[pʰ] like “p” in “pop”	q	[tʃʰ] harder than “ch” in “cheap”
t	[tʰ] like “t” in “tap”	c	[tsʰ] like “ts” in “cats”, with aspiration
k	[kʰ] like “k” in “kangaroo”	ch	[tʃʰ] (tongue curled back, aspirated)
- Distinction between certain initials:

b/p	d/t	g/k	j/q	z/c	zh/ch
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Finals 韵母

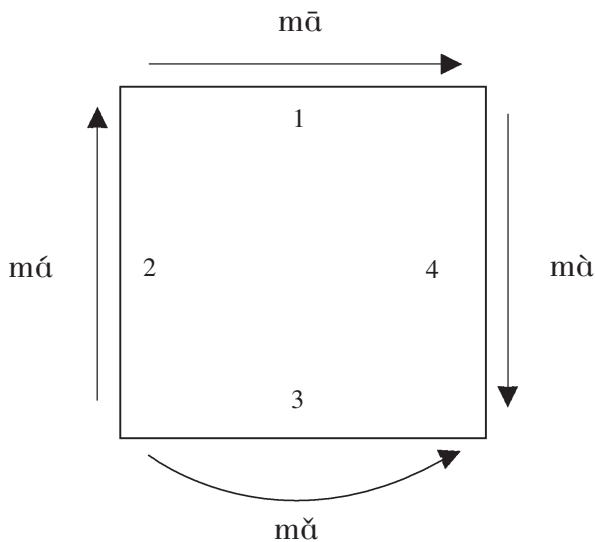
现代汉语，除了上面的 21 个声母以外，还有 38 个韵母。

In modern Chinese, there are 38 finals besides the above-represented 21 initials.

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

- ie like “ye” in “yes”
- e like “e” in “her”
- er like “er” in “sister” (American pronunciation)
- ai like “y” in “by” (light)
- ei like “ay” in “bay”
- ou like “o” in “go”
- an like “an” in “can” (without stressing the “n”)
- -ng (final) a nasalized sound like the “ng” in “bang” without pronouncing the “g”
- uei, uen and iou when preceded by an initial, are written as **ui**, **un** and **iu** respectively.

Tones 声调



mā	má	mǎ	mà
1	2	3	4

Tone drills 声调练习

nī	ní	nǐ	nì
hāo	háo	hǎo	hào
zāi	zái	zǎi	zài
jiān	jián	jiǎn	jiàn

汉语是有声调语言。声调有区别意义的作用，相同的音节，声调不同意义也不同。北京语音有四个声调，即第一声、第二声、第三声、第四声，分别用不同符号来表示。

Chinese is a language with different tones that are capable of differentiating meanings. A syllable, when pronounced in a different tone, has a different meaning even if it is composed of the same initial and final. In Beijing dialect there are four basic tones, 1st tone, 2nd tone, 3rd tone and 4th tone, represented by different tone-graphs respectively.

Tone changes 变调

Nǐ hǎo = Ní hǎo

两个三声连在一起时，前一个音节读第二声，调号不变，如：

A 3rd tone, when immediately followed by another 3rd tone, should be pronounced in the 2nd tone.

Conversation 会话练习

◆ Nǐ hǎo !

你 好 !

◇ Nǐ hǎo !

你 好 !

* * *

◆ Zàijiàn !

再 见 !

◇ Zàijiàn !

再 见 !

nǐ	pro	<i>you</i>
hǎo	adj	<i>good, well</i>
Nǐ hǎo !		<i>How are you?</i>
zài	adv	<i>again</i>
jiàn	v	<i>see</i>
Zàijiàn !		<i>Goodbye!</i>