

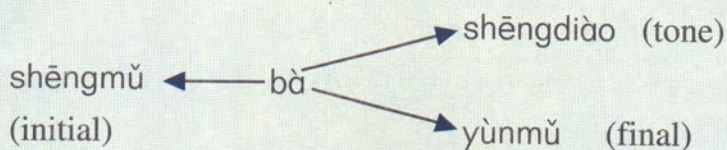
# 语音知识 Yǔyīn zhīshi Phonetics

## 一、音节 yīnjié Syllables

In Chinese, a syllable is composed of an initial (shēngmǔ), a final (yùnmǔ) and a tone (shēngdiào).

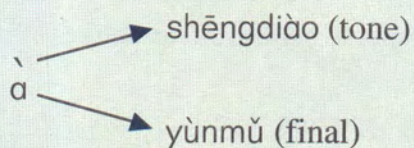
For example: in the syllable 'bà', 'b' is the initial, 'à' is the final, and 'ˋ' is the tone.

E.g.:



A syllable may consist of a final and a tone only.

E.g.:



## 二、声母 shēngmǔ Initials

唇音	b	p	m	f		
舌尖中音	d	t	n			l
舌根音	g	k				
舌面音	j	q		x		
舌尖后音	zh	ch		sh		r
舌尖前音	z	c		s		

## 三、韵母 yùnmǔ Finals

	i	u	ü
a	ia	ua	
o		uo	
e	ie		üe
-i			

# 语音知识

er			
ai		uai	
ei		uei(ui)	
ao	iao		
ou	iou(iu)		
an	ian	uan	üan
en	in	uen	ün
ang	iang	uang	
eng	ing	ueng	
		ong	iong

## 四、声调 shēngdiào Tones

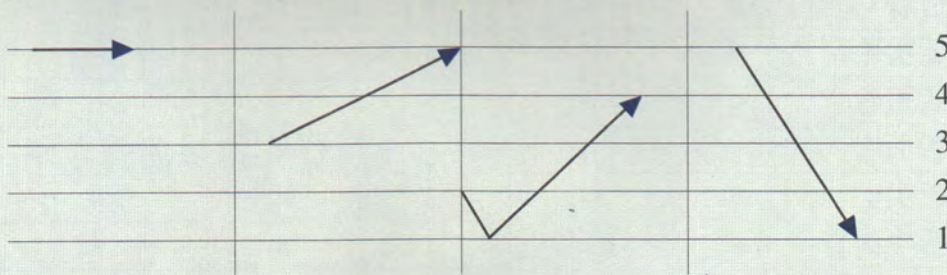
### 1. 声调 shēngdiào Tones

The tone refers to the pitch variation within a syllable.

In Chinese, it's a way to express different meanings of the same syllable. In Mandarin, there are four tones, represented respectively by a tone-marker.

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- 第一声 dì-yī shēng      the first tone
- / 第二声 dì-èr shēng      the second tone
- ∨ 第三声 dì-sān shēng      the third tone
- 、 第四声 dì-sì shēng      the fourth tone



Syllables of different tones often have different meanings. E.g.:

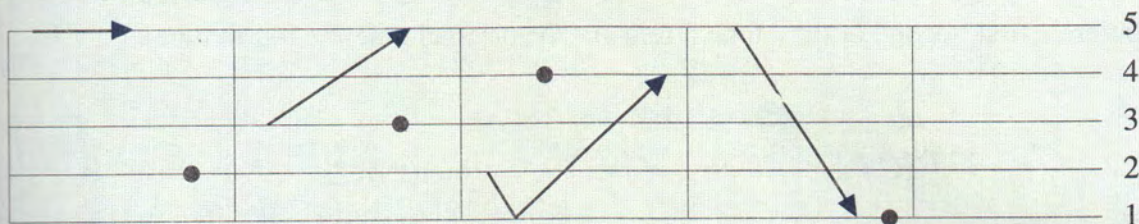
- mā (mother)      mǎ (horse)
- má (hemp)      mà (to scold)

### 2. 轻声 qīngshēng The neutral tone

Some syllables are pronounced in a low and unstressed tone, known as the neutral tone

(qīngshēng), which is shown by the absence of a tone-marker.

E.g.:



tāmen      yéye      nǐmen      bàba  
 (they,them) (grandpa) (you) (dad)

### 五、变调 biàndiào Changes of Tone

#### 1. 三声变调 sānshēng biàndiào Changes of the third tone

When two third tones syllables appear in a row, the former is pronounced with a second tone, but is marked as the original tone.

When a third tone syllable is followed by a first, second, fourth or a neutral tone syllable, it retains only the first falling part, which we call the half-third tone. It is also marked as the original tone.

E.g.: ˋ + ˋ → ˊ + ˋ      hěn hǎo

ˋ +  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{ˉ} \\ \text{ˊ} \\ \text{ˋ} \\ \text{•} \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \text{ˋ} + \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{ˉ} \\ \text{ˊ} \\ \text{ˋ} \\ \text{•} \end{array} \right\}$

hěn gāo  
 hěn nán  
 hěn dà  
 wǒ de

#### 2. “一”的变调 “yī” de biàndiào Tone changes of “一”

When used before a fourth tone, it changes into a second tone. And before a first, second or third syllables, it changes into a fourth tone.

yī                      yí  
 一 + ˋ      →      一 + ˋ      yí gè 一个

yī +  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{ˉ} \\ \text{ˊ} \\ \text{ˋ} \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \text{一} + \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{ˉ} \\ \text{ˊ} \\ \text{ˋ} \end{array} \right\}$

yì tiān 一天  
 yì tiáo 一条  
 yì chǎng 一场