



**Chinese Mandarin and Culture
(Beginners Term A)**

中国普通话和文化

zhōngguó pǔtōnghuà hé wénhuà

Welcome to your Course

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Website: <https://wingsofdave.com/mandarin/>

Password: Idea2023



LESSON A.1 - PART 1

BASIC GREETINGS

问候 WÈNHÒU



欢迎

huānyíng

Welcome

你好吗？

*nǐ hǎo ma **

How are you?

好， 你呢？

hǎo , nǐ ne

Fine, how about
you?

还好， 谢谢！

hái hǎo, xièxìè

OK, thanks!

Note: for two 3rd tones in a row, change the first one to 2nd tone



学中文

xué zhōngwén

Learn
Chinese

说普通话

shuō pǔtōnghuà

Speak Mandarin

中国文化

zhōngguó wénhuà

Chinese culture

很难!

hěn nán!

It's difficult!



LESSON A.1 - PART 2

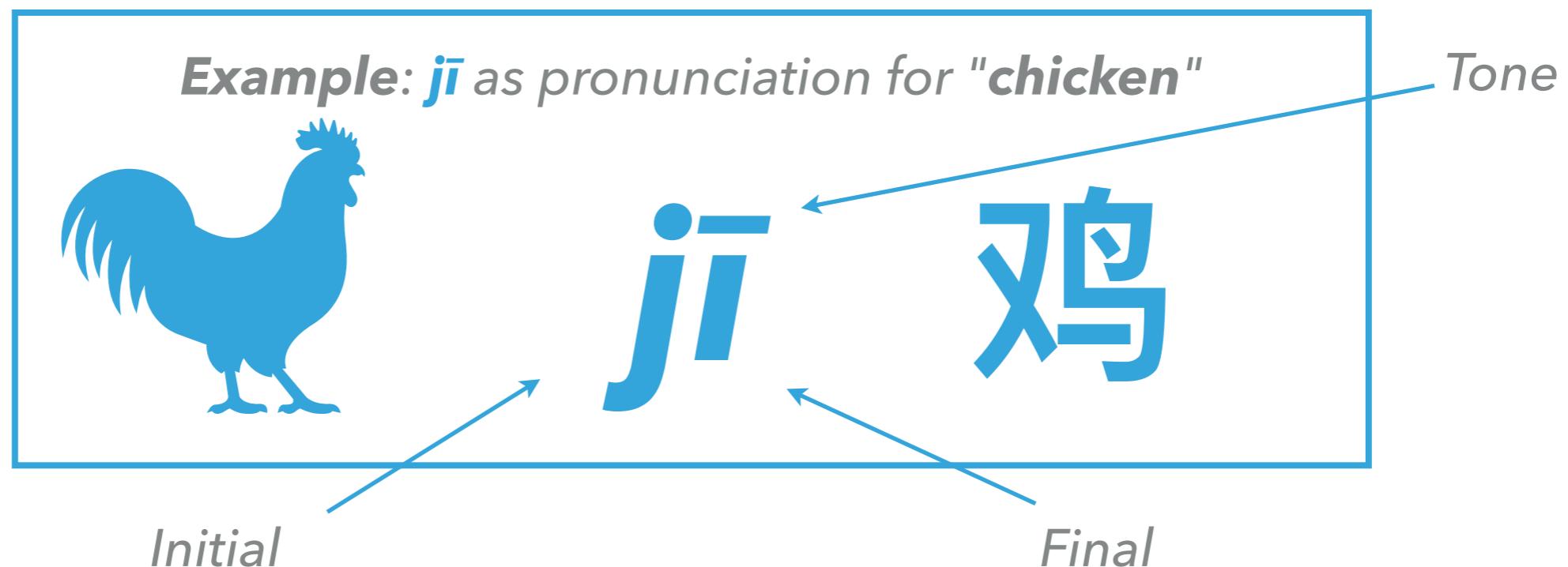
PINYIN (BASIC)

拼音 PÍNYÍN



PINYIN "SPELL SOUND"

- Pinyin is a **romanized** phonetic writing system for Mandarin based on the national **standard** system of pronunciation.
- It was **officially** adopted by the Chinese government in 1958 to help speakers of other dialects learn the standard pronunciation.
- Every Chinese character is made up of one-syllable sound. A Pinyin syllable has 3 components: an **initial** (usually consonant), a **final** (vowel) and a **tone** mark that indicates the pitch contour. There are 21 initials, 35 finals and 4 tones.





- Initials are always placed at the beginning of a syllable. They are similar to consonants in English. They can be divided into 6 groups based on their phonetic characteristics.

b-, p-, m-, f- (Labials)

Pronounced like baw, paw, maw, faw

- Formed using the lips.

d-, t-, n-, l- (Dentals)

Pronounced like duh, tuh, nuh, luh

- Formed with the tongue touching or near the back of the upper teeth

g-, k-, h- (Velars)

Pronounced like guh, kuh, huh

- Formed from the throat.



j-, q-, x- (Frontals)

Pronounced as gee, chee, shee

- Formed with the tip of the tongue directly against the back of the lower teeth. Unlike English, the tip of the tongue does not touch the roof of the mouth. The lips must be tight and pulled widely apart, as in a forced smile.

z-, c-, s- (Aveolars)

Pronounced as dzeh, tseh, seh

- Formed with the upper teeth in contact with the upper front surface of the tongue.

zh-, ch-, sh-, r- (Retroflexes)

Pronounced like jir, chir, shir, rj

- Formed with the tip of the tongue rolled upward and touching the roof of the mouth. When you say r in Mandarin, the lip should be less open than in English. You will feel the air vibrating around your tongue. Your lower jaw is thrust slightly forward.



- Finals are composed of up to 4 letters.
- They are made from 6 single vowels (**a, e, i, o, u, ü**), which can be combined with 3 consonant endings (**n, ng, r**)

Example: b + ang to form bang
as pronunciation for "help"

Final	Pronunciation
-a	ah
-ai	i
-an	ahn
-ang	ahng
-ao	ow
-e	uh
-ei	ay

Final	Pronunciation
-en	un
-eng	ung
-er	ur
-o	aw
-ong	awng
-ou	oh



LESSON A.1 - PART 3

TONES

音 YĪN





- Mandarin Chinese has 4 tones and a neutral tone.
- The tone you use when pronouncing each one-syllable word determines the meaning.

1st tone

5-5



high pitch, hold flat

Aaah

2nd tone

3-5



rising from low to high

What?

3rd tone

2-1-4

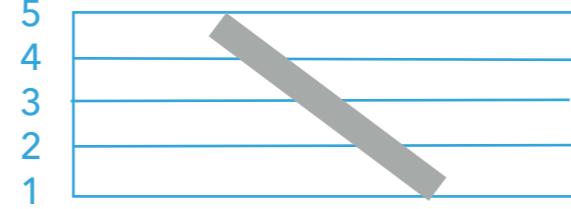


low - dipping - rising

Really?

4th tone

5-1



falls from high to low

No!



Placing Tone Mark

- In general, a tone mark is placed above the first vowel.

Example: *bāo, báo, bǎo, bào*

- Exception is **i**, **u**, or **ü**, where the tone mark is placed above the second vowel.

Example: *jiǔ, guì, yuán*

Neutral Tone

- Neutral tone has no tone mark, and is unstressed.
- A neutral tone always follows a major-toned syllable and never comes at the beginning of a phrase.

Example: *wǒmen* as "we" 我们

Tone Change: 3+3 → 2+3

- If a 3rd tone is followed by another 3rd tone, the first 3rd tone is pronounced as a 2nd tone although the printed tone mark does not change.

Example: *nǐ hǎo* → *ní hǎo* as "hello" 你好

CULTURE - THE UNDER-MEANING OF “GOOD”

13



What's good about “good”

- In Chinese, the character 好 consists of "girl" and "boy" in short form, which is the ideal unison in Chinese culture.
- The complete form is as below
 - "Girl" - 女孩 nǚhái
 - "Boy" - 男孩 nánhái or short as 子 zi
 - "Woman" - 女人 nǚrén
 - "Man" - 男人 nánrén



Girl
女
nǚ

+

Boy
子
zi

=

Good
好
hǎo

CLASSROOM EXERCISE A.1 – PINYIN

14



1. Can you guess the meaning(s) of each pinyin?

bāo

báo

bǎo

bào

饱 (*full*)

包 (*bun*)

爆 (*explode*)

宝 (*treasure*)

薄 (*thin*)

2. Can you guess how to pronounce “baby” in the correct tone?

baobao

宝宝

