



## LESSON A.2 - PART 1

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# EVERYDAY GREETINGS

# 每天的问候 MĚITIĀN DE WÈNHÒU

# LESSON A.1 REVISION



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Construct words/phrases from the below characters:

你  
*nǐ*

说  
*shuō*

学  
*xué*

欢  
*huān*

中国  
*zhōngguó*

拼  
*pīn*

迎  
*yíng*

好吗?  
*hǎo ma*

中文  
*zhōngwén*

文化  
*wénhuà*

音  
*yīn*

普通话  
*pǔtōnghuà*



你好

*nǐ hǎo \**

hello

您好

*nín hǎo*

hello

(respectful)

喂

*wéi*

hey

(only for phone call)

早上好

*zǎoshàng hǎo*

good morning

(Lit. morning good)



再见

*zàijiàn*

goodbye

(Lit. again see)

明天见

*míngtiān jiàn*

see you  
tomorrow

(Lit. tomorrow see)

一会见

*yī huì jiàn\**

see you  
soon

(Lit. one moment  
see)

慢走

*màn zǒu*

take care

(Lit. slow walk)

Note: for 一 (yī), change the tone to 2nd tone when preceding 4th tone.



## LESSON A.2 - PART 2

# PINYIN (SEMI-VOWELS)

# 拼音 PĪNYĪN



- When the finals **i**, **u**, **ü** (and their compounds such as **ia**, **uang**, **üang**) are not preceded by an initial, they are called semi-vowels.
- Semi-vowels functions as initials, but their spelling changes as shown

**i** → **y**

**u** → **w**

**ü** → **yu**

**i** → **yi** when **i** is by itself

**u** → **wu** when **u** is by itself

# SEMI-VOWELS



Final	Change to Initial	Pronunciation
-i	yi	ee
-ia	ya	ya
-ian	yan	yan
-iang	yang	yahng
-iao	yao	yaow
-ie	ye	yeh
-in	yin	een
-ing	ying	eeng
-iong	yong	yoong
-iu	yu	yoo

Final	Change to Initial	Pronunciation
-u	wu	oo
-ua	wa	wah
-uai	wai	why
-uan	wan	wahn
-uang	wang	wahng
-ui	wei	way
-un	wen	wun
-uo	wo	wow
-ü	yu	yoo
-üan	yuan	ywan
-üe	yue	yueh
-ün	yun	yewn



- When **ü** follows **j-**, **q-**, or **x-** in a syllable, it changes to **u**, as in these examples:

**jü → juan, jue, jun**

**qü → quan, que, qun**

**xü → xuan , xue, xun**



## LESSON A.2 - PART 3

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# PRONUNCIATION

# 发音 FĀYĪN

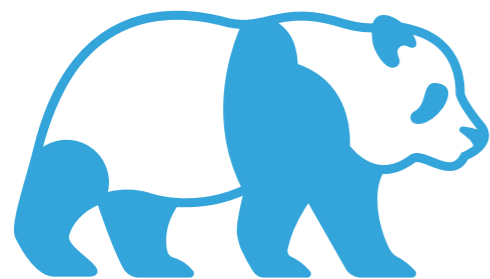
# USE PINYIN TO PRONOUNCE CHARACTERS



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- Many words in Chinese are made up of more than one sound.
- You tell where each sound ends and each new sound begins by using the initials as markers.

*Example: **xióngmāo** as pronunciation for "panda"*



**xióngmāo**

熊猫

*Initial for the 1st  
character "bear"*

*Initial for the 2nd  
character "cat"*

# CLASSROOM EXERCISE A.2 – PRONOUNCING WORD IN A ROW



- Once you have grasped saying single-sound words with tones, try to put a few together.

TONE	Pinyin	Chinese Word	English
1+1	<b>fēijī</b>	飞机	airplane
2+2	<b>yínháng</b>	银行	bank
3+3 → 2+3	<b>nǐhǎo</b>	你好	Hello!
4+4	<b>zàijiàn</b>	再见	good-bye
1+4	<b>chīfàn</b>	吃饭	to eat a meal
4+2	<b>miàntiáo</b>	面条	noodles
3+4	<b>gǎngbì</b>	港币	HK dollar
1+2	<b>hēchá</b>	喝茶	drink tea
1+2+2	<b>yīngguórén</b>	英国人	British person
4+2+2	<b>wàiguórén</b>	外国人	Foreigner
3+1+4	<b>chǎojīdàn</b>	炒鸡蛋	omlette

# APPENDIX – PINYIN CHEAT SHEET



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Init	Sound	Init	Sound	Final	Sound	Semi	Sound	Semi	Sound
<b>b-</b>	baw	<b>j-</b>	gee	<b>-a</b>	ah	<b>-i</b>	ee	<b>-u</b>	oo
<b>p-</b>	paw	<b>q-</b>	chee	<b>-ai</b>	i	<b>-ia</b>	ya	<b>-ua</b>	wah
<b>m-</b>	maw	<b>x-</b>	shee	<b>-an</b>	ahn	<b>-ian</b>	yan	<b>-uai</b>	why
<b>f-</b>	faw	<b>z-</b>	dzeh	<b>-ang</b>	ahng	<b>-iang</b>	yahng	<b>-uan</b>	wahn
<b>d-</b>	duh	<b>c-</b>	tseh	<b>-ao</b>	ow	<b>-iao</b>	yaow	<b>-uang</b>	wahng
<b>t-</b>	tuh	<b>s-</b>	seh	<b>-e</b>	uh	<b>-ie</b>	yeh	<b>-ui</b>	way
<b>n-</b>	nuh	<b>zh-</b>	jir	<b>-ei</b>	ay	<b>-in</b>	een	<b>-un</b>	wun
<b>l-</b>	luh	<b>ch-</b>	chir	<b>-en</b>	un	<b>-ing</b>	eeng	<b>-uo</b>	wow
<b>g-</b>	guh	<b>sh-</b>	shir	<b>-eng</b>	ung	<b>-iong</b>	yoong	<b>-ü</b>	yoo
<b>k-</b>	kuh	<b>r-</b>	rj	<b>-er</b>	ur	<b>-iu</b>	you	<b>-üan</b>	ywan
<b>h-</b>	huh			<b>-o</b>	aw			<b>-üe</b>	yueh
				<b>-ong</b>	awng			<b>-ün</b>	yewn
				<b>-ou</b>	oh				



吃了没有?  
*chīle méiyǒu*

- **Myth:** Chinese people say “*nǐ hǎo*” in all occasions, just as one says “hello” to each other.
- **Reality:** Chinese people only say “*nǐ hǎo*” when they meet a new person. When they speak to a familiar person, they use other warmer greetings such as “have you eaten?” “吃了没有” (*chīle méiyǒu*).



## 中秋节 *zhōngqiū jié*

- Originated from the worship of the **full moon** 满月(*mǎnyuè*) which is an auspicious symbol of harmony and luck, it falls on the **15th day of the 8th lunar month**. In 2023, it is on the 29th September.
- **Activity**: family reunion, similar to Thanksgiving Day. Usually, Chinese people put food and fruits on the table towards the moon, praying for luck.
- **Food: mooncake** 月饼 (*yuèbǐng*) - made from red bean or lotus seed paste centred with salted duck egg yolk. Hence, it is also fondly called **Mooncake Festival**.

## Chinese Folklore

- Chinese folklore has long held the **rabbit** 兔子 (*tùzǐ*) as a symbol of rebirth that is commonly taken to represent the moon.
- The markings of the moon are said to look like a rabbit holding a mortar and pestle.
- This noble moon rabbit is believed to be a companion of **moon goddess** Chang'e. Therefore, the rabbit is another symbol that is associated with the festival.

