



LEARN CHINESE FOR TRAVELLING (BEGINNER A)

学旅行中文
xué lǚxíng zhōngwén

Welcome to your Course

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Course code: A6126

Term A: 25th Sep - 4th Dec 2024 (10 weeks)

Half Term: 30th Oct 2024 (propose to skip half term, meaning to finish the term on 27th Nov 2024)

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

Password: Idea2024



LESSON A.1 - PART 1

GREETINGS (BASIC)

问候 WÈNHÒU



欢迎来到上海。

huānyíng lái dào shànghǎi

你好吗？

nǐ hǎo ma *

好， 你呢？

hǎo , nǐ ne

还好， 谢谢！

hái hǎo, xièxìè

Welcome
to Shanghai.
(Lit. Welcome coming to
Shanghai)

How are you?

Fine, how about
you?

OK, thanks!

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



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)

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



再见!

zàijiàn

Goodbye!

(Lit. again see)

明天见!

míngtiān jiàn

See you
tomorrow!

(Lit. tomorrow see)

一会儿见!

*yī huì jiàn**

See you
soon!

*(Lit. one moment
see)*

慢走!

màn zǒu

Take care!

(Lit. slow walk)

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



LESSON A.1 - PART 2

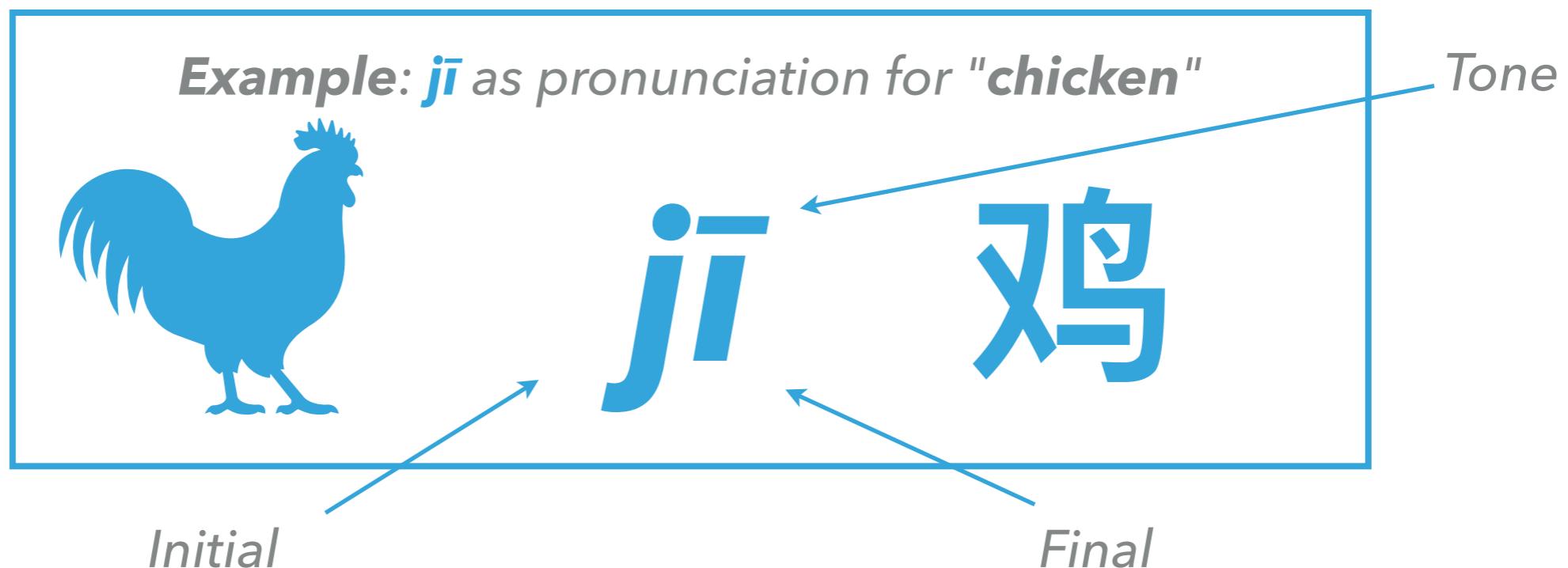
PINYIN

拼音 Pīnyīn

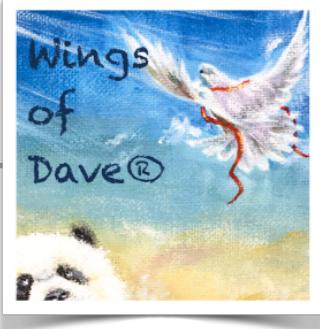
PINYIN "SPELL SOUND"



- 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.

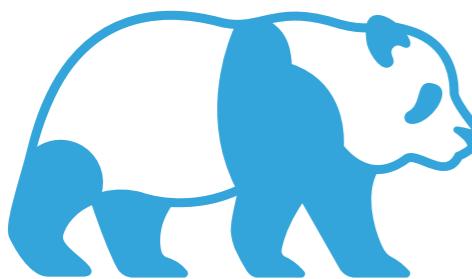


USE PINYIN TO PRONOUNCE CHARACTERS



- 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"*

PINYIN TABLE



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

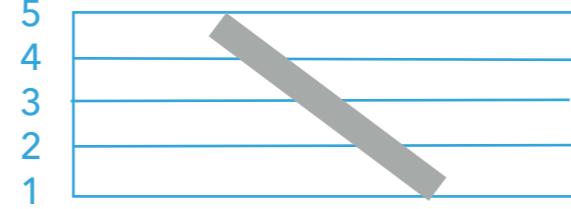


low - dipping - rising

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

ADVANCED - NO MORE SAYING “NI HAO”



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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*).

CLASSROOM EXERCISE A.1 – PINYIN

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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

