



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

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

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, xièxiè

OK, thanks!



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.1 - PART 2

PINYIN

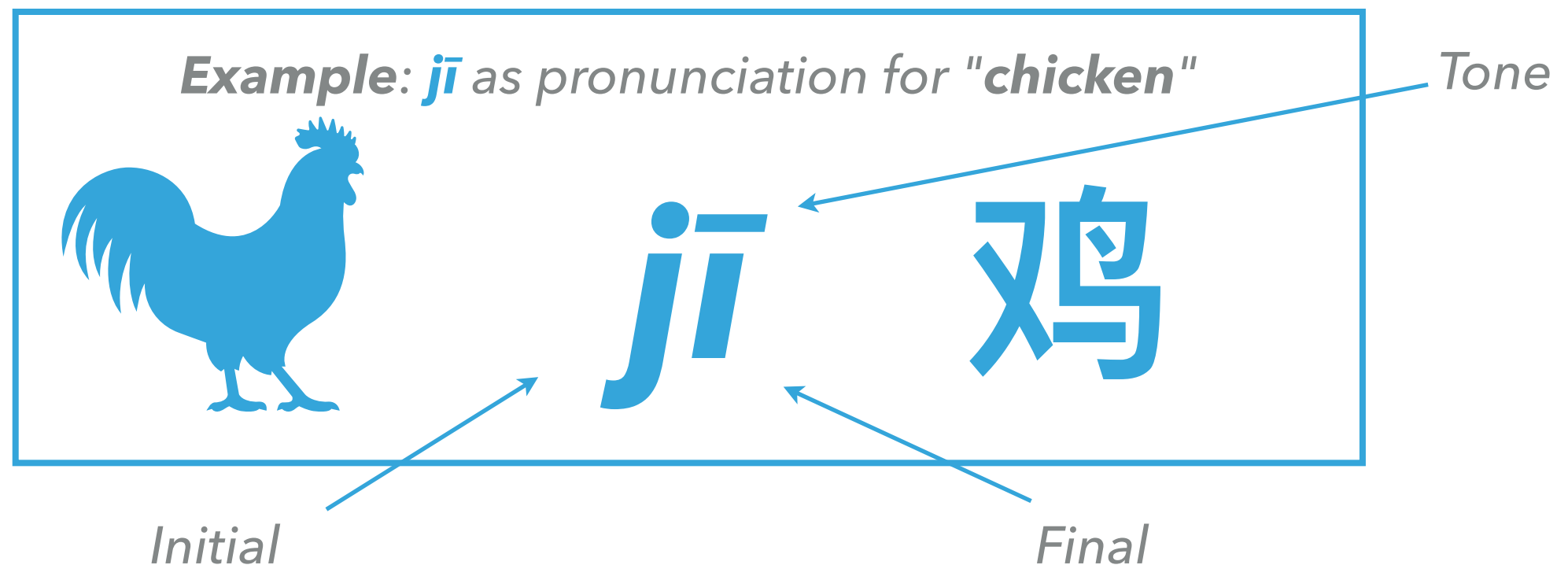
拼音 PĪNYĪN

PINYIN "SPELL SOUND"



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- 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.



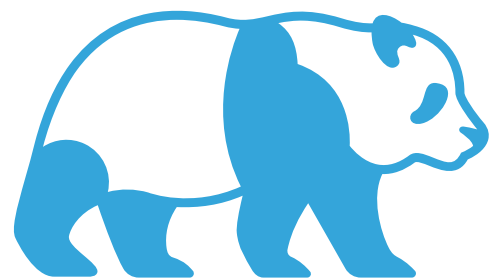
USE PINYIN TO PRONOUNCE CHARACTERS



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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"*

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 | yewn |
| | | | | -ou | oh | | | | |



LESSON A.1 - PART 3

TONES

音YIN

TONES

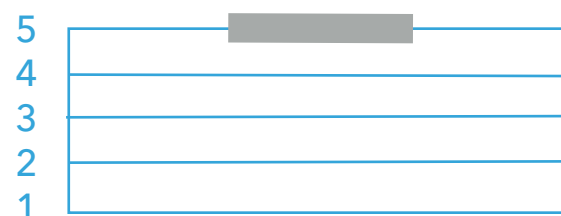


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- Mandarin Chinese has 4 tones and a neutral tone.
- The tone you use when pronouncing each one-syllable word determines the meaning.

1st tone

5-5

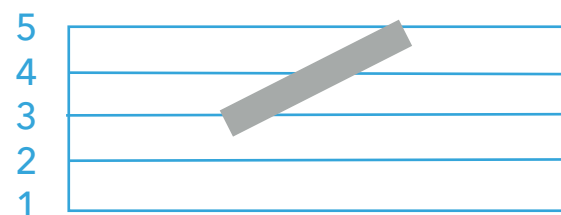


high pitch, hold flat

Aaah

2nd tone

3-5



rising from low to high

What?

3rd tone

2-1-4

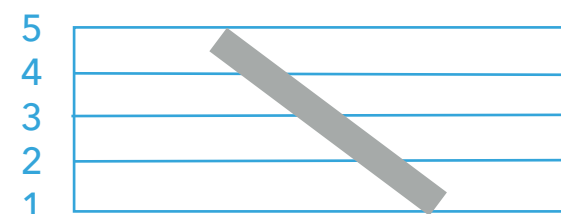


low - dipping - rising

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



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

