



LESSON A.2 - PART 1

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)

...AND GOODBYE



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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

Note: All pronunciation should be said as one syllable



- 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

PRONUNCIATION

发音 FĀYĪN

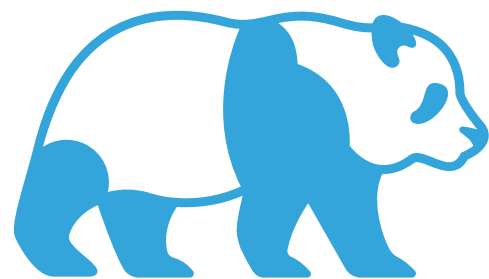
USE PINYIN TO PRONOUNCE CHARACTERS



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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	fēijī	飞机	airplane
2+2	yínháng	银行	bank
3+3 → 2+3	nǐhǎo	你好	Hello!
4+4	zàijiàn	再见	good-bye
1+4	chīfàn	吃饭	to eat a meal
4+2	miàntiáo	面条	noodles
3+4	gǎngbì	港币	HK dollar
1+2	hēchá	喝茶	drink tea
1+2+2	yīngguó rén	英国人	British person
4+2+2	wàiguó rén	外国人	Foreigner
3+1+4	chǎojiǎn	炒鸡蛋	omlette

APPENDIX – PINYIN CHEAT SHEET



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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				



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 2026, it is on the 25th 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.

