

Pinyin 1

Level:

Beginner

You will learn:

During this lesson you will learn Chinese Pinyin. It consists of initials, finals and tones.



What is Pinyin

Pinyin is a way to represent Chinese characters and express the sounds in the Chinese language using the alphabet. Once you learn Pinyin you will know how to pronounce any word in Mandarin using a Chinese dictionary. Pinyin is also the most common way to input Chinese characters into a computer. Although Pinyin and English both use the Roman alphabet, many letters are not expressed with the same sounds that English uses.

What is Pinyin

Initials, finals and tones are **the fundamental elements in pinyin**

“ m ” is the initial

“ áo ” is the final

“ ’ ” is the tone

Initials-1

b like 'b' in 'boat'



p like 'p' in 'put' - with more aspiration



m like 'm' in 'many'



f like 'f' in 'fat'




Initials-1

d like 'd' in 'down' – softened to approach a 

't' sound

t like 't' in 'top' - with more aspiration 

n like 'n' in 'name' 

l like 'l' in 'look' 

Initials-1

g like 'g' in 'go'



k like 'k' in 'kiss' - with more aspiration









h like 'h' in 'hope' - with a slight rasp as in 'loch'



The Chinese **p, t** and **k** are pronounced with much more aspiration. The Chinese **b, d** and **g** are voiceless, whereas the English **b, d** and **g** are voiced.

Simple Finals

- a** like 'o' in 'mother' 
- o** like 'or' in 'bore' 
- e** like 'e' in 'her' 
- i** like 'ea' in 'eat' 
- u** like 'oo' in 'football' 
- ü** similar to the ü in German Language 

Exercise:

1. 朗读下列单韵母。 Read the following simple finals.

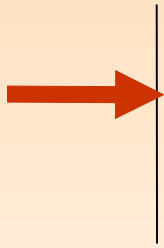
a—e e—a a—o e—o i—u u—i
i—ü u—ü u—e e—i o—i ü—i

2. 朗读下列声母。 Read the following initials.

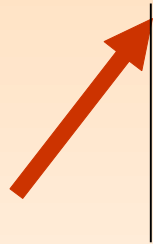
b(o) p(o) m(o) f(o) d(e) t(e)
n(e) l(e) g(e) k(e) h(e)

Tones

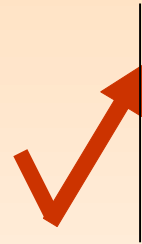
1st mā



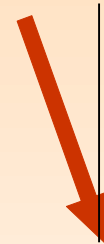
2nd má



3rd mǎ



4th mà



Neutral Tone

- In Hanyu, apart from the four tones, there is a neutral tone which is written without a tone mark. A neutral tone is almost always carried by syllables other than the beginning one, and is pronounced in a light and short manner.

māma 妈妈	yéye 爷爷
bàba 爸爸	nǎinai 奶奶
zhuōzi 桌子	zǎoshang 早上

Exercise:

朗读下列拼音。 Read the following pinyin.

mā

má

mǎ

mà

bā

bá

bǎ

bà

pō

pó

pǒ

pò

lī

lí

lǐ

lì

nī

ní

nǐ

nì

gēge

dìdi

jiějie

mèimei

Exercise

1. 辨声母。 Discriminate the initials.

bà-pà	tī-dī	gē-kē	lǐ-nǐ	hǔ-kǔ
爸-怕	梯-滴	哥-科	里-你	虎-苦

2. 辨韵母。 Discriminate the finals.

Hā-hē	kē-kū	lí-lú	bō-bǔ	nǔ-nǐ	pá-pó
哈-喝	科-哭	梨-驴	跛-补	怒-你	爬-婆