

Chinese Pronunciation

Syllable	Pronunciation	English Example	Pinyin Example
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Lesson 1

b	boa	bore	bàba
p	poa	poor	péngyou
m	moa	more	māma
n	nur	need	nǐ
l	lur	lie	liù
h	hur	hot	hǎo
a ¹	ah	father	māma
o ²	oh	more	wàipó
e ³	ur	fur	gēge
i ⁴	ee	tea	qī
u	oo	moo	wǔ
ü	yu	pneumonia	nǚ
ao	ow	cow	hǎo
en	un	under	hěn
ie	yeeay	Pierre	jiějie
in	yin	bin	nín
ing	ee-in-ng, yee-ung	ring	qǐng
uo	wah	drop, war	wǒ, guó

Lesson 2

d	dur	door	dà
t	tur	tore	tā
g	gur	guard	gēge
k	kur	card	kěyǐ
f	foa	fan	fēi
ei	ā	play	mèimei, fēi
ou	oh	go	dōu, péngyou
an	ahn	bonet	sān
ang	ahng		máng
eng	ung	dung	péngyou, xuésheng
iao	yow, ee-ow	meow	jiào
iou->iu	yew, ee-oo	yo-yo	liù, jiǔ

Lesson 3

zh	jee	jelly	zhè, zhōng
ch	chee	chilly	chá
sh	shee	shy	shì
r	ree	ray	rén
ai	ī	bite	wàipó

¹ Except between *i* and *n*, when it is pronounced like the *a* in *cash*. For example: tiān (day).

² Except when followed by *ng*, when it is pronounced like *o* in *grow*. For example: zhōng.

³ Except when preceded by *i* or *u* (except *y*), when it is pronounced like the *e* in *get*. For example: yè (night), jiě (older sister).

⁴ Except when preceded by *zh*, *ch*, *sh*, or *r*, when it is pronounced like a vocalized *r*. And except when preceded by *z*, *c*, or *s*, when it is pronounced like a buzzing *z*. For example: sì (four).

uai ? ong	why ohng	swipe Jung	búyòng, zhōng
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Lesson 4

j	jee	genius	jiào
q	chee	chew	qī
x	shee	sheet	xuésheng, xièxie
ia	yah		Jiānádà
ian	yen		biàn, jīntiān
iang	yahng		
uie->ui	way	weigh	duìbuqǐ
uen->un	won	wondrous	
üe	you·ay	pneumatic+air	xuésheng
üan	you·un	pneumatic+end	

Lesson 5

z	dsur	adds	zài
c	tsur	its	céng
s	sur	say	sān
er	arr	are	zhèr, èr
iong	yoo-ng		
ua	wah	suave	
uan	wahn	want	xuéyuàn
uang	wahng	wrong	
ün	yoo-un	pneumatic+pun	

Other

ng	sing	
w	way	wǒ
y	yell	yào

Spelling Rules

- 1.1 Change i to y at beginning of a syllable (e.g., ie -> ye).
- 1.2 Change i to yi if it is a syllable by itself (e.g., i -> yi).
- 1.3 Change u to w at beginning of a syllable (e.g., uo -> wo).
- 1.4 Change u to wu if it is a syllable by itself.
- 1.5 Change ü to yu at beginning of a syllable.
- 1.5 Change ü to yu if it is a syllable by itself (e.g., ü -> yu).
- 2.1 Change iou to iu if it follows an initial. Put tone mark over the u (e.g., liù).
- 3.1 The final i is not pronounced following zh, ch, sh, or r (i.e., zhi, chi, shi, and ri).
- 4.1 Change uei to ui if preceded by an initial. Put tone mark over the i (e.g., guì).
- 4.2 Change uen to un if preceded by an initial (e.g., lùn).
- 4.3 Change ü to u when preceded with j, q, or x (xué).
- 4.4 Change ü to yu for compound finals (e.g., Yǔyán Xuéyuàn).