

yǔ yīn 语音 Phonetics

Yīnjié 音节 Syllables

In Chinese, a syllable is composed of an initial, a final and a tone.
For example: in the syllable ‘nǐ’, ‘n’ is the initial, ‘i’ is the final,
and ‘ ǎ ’ is the tone.

syllable		initial	final			tone
ā	→			a		—
bá	→	b		a		/
bǎo	→	b		a	o	√
piào	→	p	i	a	o	\

Dānyùnmǔ 单韵母 Simple Finals

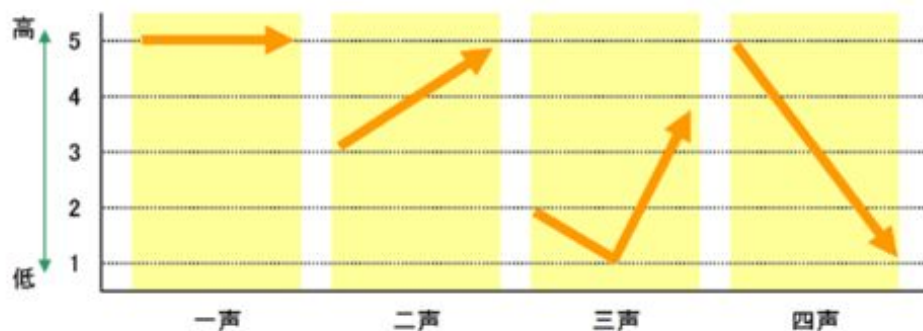
a o e i u ü



Shēngdiào 声调 Tones

1、四声 Four tones

The four tones are high level, rising, falling-rising and falling.
Different tones have different meanings.



2、轻声 Neutral tone

The neutral tone is light and short, and it has no tone-marker.

练习 Practice

bàba

māma

zhuōzi

nǐmen



Shēngmǔ

声母 Initials

There are 21 initials in Chinese, and they can be divided into 6 groups according to the positions of articulation.

1~3 b p m f d t n l g k h

4 j q x

5 zh ch sh r

6 z c s



Fù yùnmǔ, Bí yùnmǔ hé Tèshū yùnmǔ

复韵母、鼻韵母和特殊韵母

Compound Finals, Nasal Finals and Special Finals

1、复韵母 Compound Finals

ai	ei	ao	ou	
ia	ie	ua	uo	üe
uai	uei(ui)	iao	iou(iu)	

练习 Practice

bái	māo	hēi	gǒu
qiū	piào	yā	xiè
yuē	wā	huǒ	yāo
xiù	duì	wāi	guó

2、鼻韵母 Nasal Finals

an	ang	en	eng
in	ing	ian	iang
uan	uang	uen(un)	ueng
üan	ün	ong	iong

练习 Practice

fān	páng	yàng	wāng
huàn	yuán	fēn	néng
wēng	hóng	xióng	quán
yīn	tīng	wèn	yún

3、特殊韵母 Special Finals

-i [ɿ] and -i [ʅ]

-i [ɿ] :follows “z/ c /s”, and is different from the regular “i”.

-i [ʅ] :follows “zh/ ch /sh / r”, and is different from the regular “i”.

练习 Practice

i(前音) zǐ cǐ sì

i(后音) zhǐ chí shǐ rì

er

练习 Practice

érzi nǚér ěrduo dièr



Biàndiào

变调

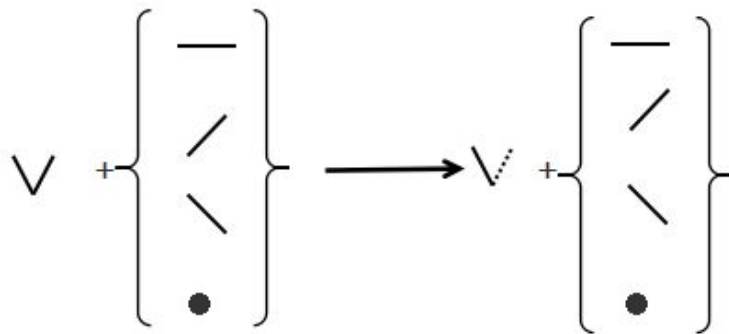
Changes of Tone

1、三声变调 Change of the third tone

When there are two third-tone syllables together, the first syllable should be pronounced with the second tone while the second syllable stays unchanged.

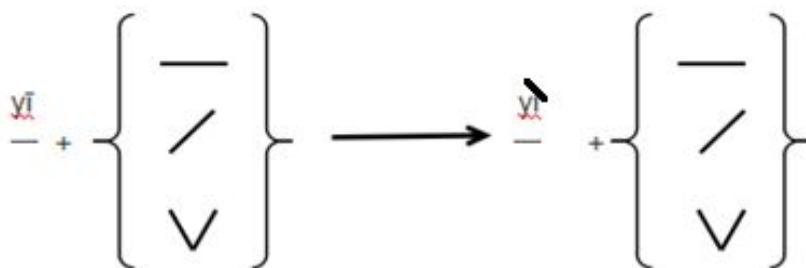
√ + √ → / + √ nǐ hǎo (你好) → ní hǎo

When a third tone followed by a first, second or fourth tone, or neutral tone, it is pronounced in the “half” third tone .That is, the tone that only falls but doesn’t rise.



2、“一”的变调 Change of the tone for “yi”

Originally “一”is pronounced in the first tone, and it remains unchanged. But when used before a fourth tone, it changes into a second tone. And before a first, second or a third tone syllable, it change into a fourth tone.



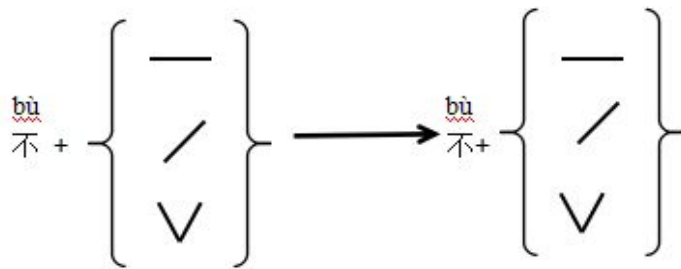
练习 Practice

yìtiān yìnián yìqǐ yíbàn

3、“不”的变调 Change of the tone “不”

“不” is pronounced with a second tone when used before a fourth tone.

When used alone, or before a first, second or third tone, it remains the original tone (the fourth tone).



练习 Practice

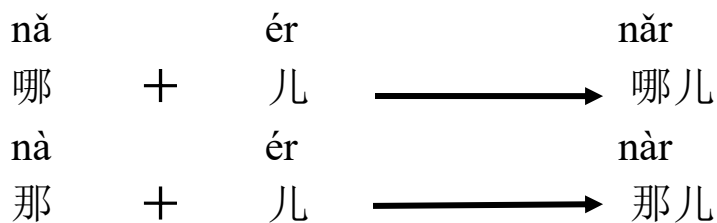
bùchī bùxíng bùhǎo búyào



Érhuàiyùn

儿化韵 Retroflexed Ending

“er” is written as “r” if it appears as a retroflex ending after other finals, e.g. na’er → nar (where), wan er → wanr (to have fun).



练习 Practice

huār yìdiǎnr hǎowánr yíhuìr



Pīn yīn guī zé

拼音规则 Spelling Rules

1. i, u, ü 单独做音节 can respectively form syllables alone

When “i” forms a syllable by itself, it is written as “yi”, “u” is written as “wu”, “ü” is written as “yu”.

i → yi

u → wu

ü → yu

2. 以 i 开头的韵母 Finals beginning with i

Finals beginning with “i”: when used without an initial, “i” is written as “y”.

ia → ya

iao → yao

ian → yan

iong → yong

3. 以 u 开头的韵母 Finals beginning with u

Finals beginning with “u”: when used without an initial, “u” is written as “w”.

ua → wa

uai → wai

uan → wan

uang → wang

4. 以ü开头的韵母 Finals beginning with ü

Finals beginning with “ü”: when used without an initial, “y” should be added before “ü”, and the two dots over “ü” are dropped.

üe → yue

ün → yun

üan → yuan

5. ü在 j, q, x, y 前写作 u

ü is written as “u” when used before j, q, x or y

When “j”, “q”, “x”, “y” are put before “ü” or a final begins with “ü”, the two dots over “ü” are dropped.

jü → ju

qü → qu

xü → xu

yü → yu

6. iou, uei, uen 的拼写规则

Spelling rules of iou, uei, uen

When used after an initial, “iou”, “uei”, “uen” should be written as “iu”, “ui”, “un”.

niou → niu

huei → hui

luen → lun