



Basic Mandarin

ASIAN LANGUAGE

Ms. J e s s a M a e d e l a C r u z , L P T

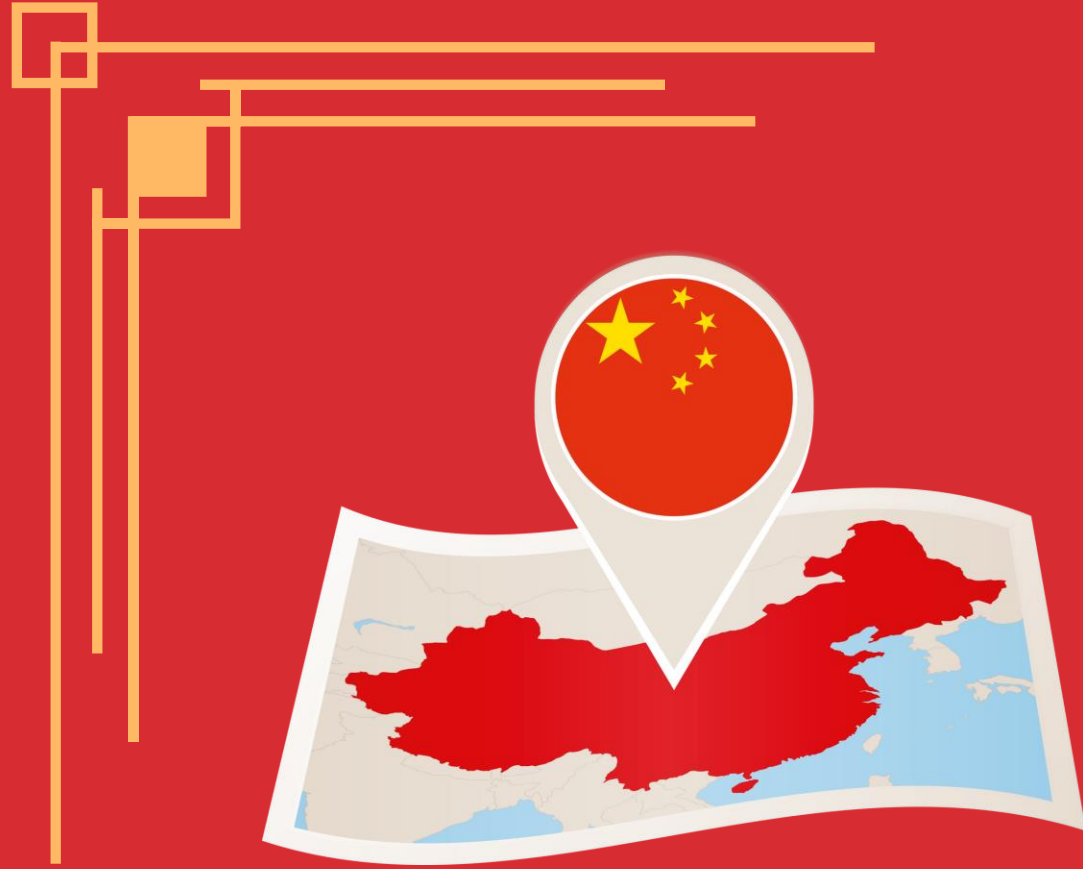
Introduction to China

- Geographical location of China
- Traditional customs and practices
- Cultural aspects of China
- Chinese language and writing system



Geographical location





1. geographical location

■ World's third-largest country by area

China is located in East Asia, and its geographical coordinates are approximately 35.8617° N latitude and 104.1954° E longitude. It is the world's third-largest country by area. China shares borders with 14 countries, including:

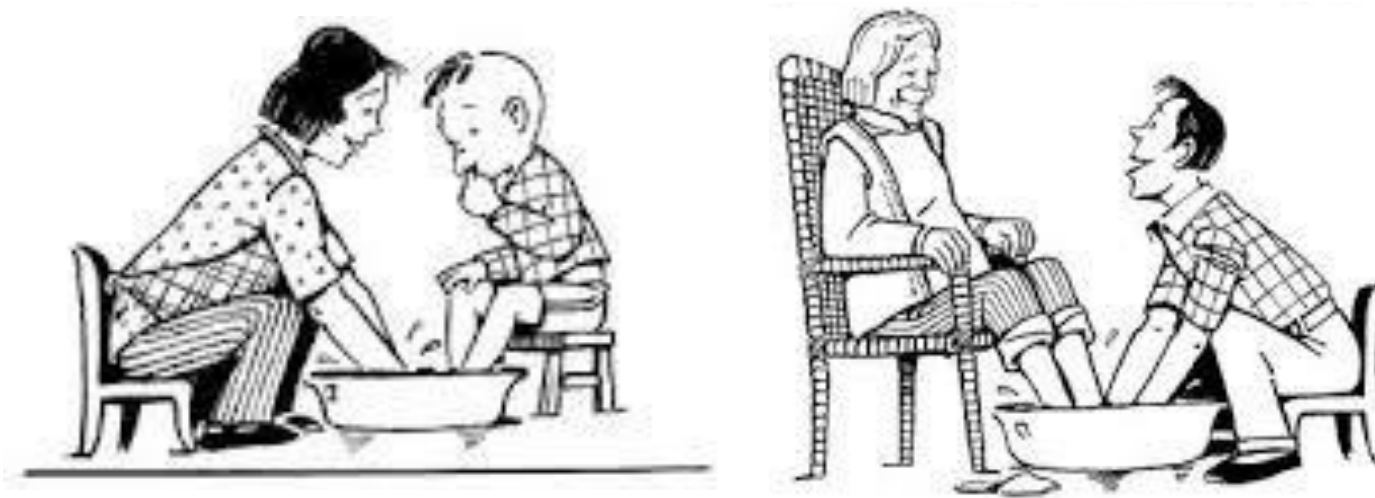
- North: Mongolia and Russia
- Northeast: North Korea
- East: Russia, North Korea, and the Yellow Sea
- Southeast: Yellow Sea and East China Sea
- South: Taiwan, the South China Sea, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar (Burma), India, Bhutan, and Nepal
- West: Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan



2. Traditional customs and practices

Family Values

Filial Piety: Emphasizes the importance of respecting and caring for one's parents and elders. It is a fundamental Confucian virtue.



Ancestral Worship: Families honor deceased ancestors by making offerings and performing rituals during specific festivals.





Festivals and Celebrations

Chinese New Year (Spring Festival): A major celebration involving family reunions, feasting, dragon and lion dances, and the giving of red envelopes (hongbao) containing money for good luck.



Mid-Autumn Festival: Celebrated with mooncakes, lanterns, and family gatherings to appreciate the full moon.



2. Traditional customs and practices



2. Traditional customs and practices

Traditional Clothing

Hanfu: Traditional Chinese clothing with a long history, Hanfu includes various styles worn during different dynastic periods. Today, it is often worn during traditional ceremonies and festivals.





3. Cultural Practices

Religion

The "three pillars" of ancient Chinese society were Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism.

- Confucianism:
 - Confucian philosophy has profoundly influenced Chinese culture, emphasizing principles such as filial piety, respect for elders, moral integrity, and the importance of social harmony.
- Daoism (Taoism):
 - Daoist principles focus on living in harmony with the natural order. Practices include meditation, tai chi, and an emphasis on balance and simplicity.
- Buddhism:
 - Buddhism, which originated in India, has played a significant role in shaping Chinese culture. It has influenced art, architecture, and the way people approach life and spirituality.



3. Chinese language and writing system

Language and Writing

The Chinese writing system, one of the oldest in the world, uses logograms (characters) that carry deep cultural meanings. The Chinese language is tonal, and Mandarin is the official language.

Pinyin is the official Romanization system for Standard Mandarin Chinese. (Chinese Phonetic System)

A typical Pinyin syllable consists of three parts: initial, final and tone.

hàn yǔ pīn yīn
汉语拼音

INITIALS: shēng mǔ 声母 (21)

b	p	m	f	d	t	n	l	g	k	h	j	q	x	zh	ch	sh	r	z	c	s
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	---	---	---	---

FINALS: yùn mǔ 韵母 (24)

1. dān yùn mǔ 单韵母 SIMPLE FINALS (6)

a	o	e	i	u	ü
---	---	---	---	---	---

2. fù yùn mǔ 复韵母 COMPOUND FINALS (9)

ai	ei	ui
ao	ou	iu
ie	üe	er

3. bí yùn mǔ 鼻韵母 NASAL COMPOUND FINALS (9)

an	en	in	un	ün
ang	eng	ing	ong	

Initials

Initials, also known as "consonant sounds," are the consonant sounds that appear at the beginning of syllables in Mandarin. They are the sounds that come before the vowel sound (final) in a syllable. For example, in the pinyin "zhōng," "zh" is the initial sound.

INITIALS: sheng mǔ 声母 (21)

b	p	m	f	d	t	n	l	g	k	h	j	q	x	zh	ch	sh	r	z	c	s
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	---	---	---	---

Initials

b	Sounds similar as the “b” in English “bath”
p	Sounds similar as the “p” in English “pad”
m	Sounds similar as the “m” in English “mama”
f	Sounds similar as the “f” in English “father”
d	Sounds similar as the end “d” in “dad”
t	Sounds similar as the “t” in “take”
n	Sounds similar as the “n” in “nap”
l	Sounds similar as the “l” in “love”
g	Sounds similar as the “g” in “gate”

Initials

k	Sounds similar as the “k” in “kill”
h	Sounds like a harsher “h” in English like “hero”
j	No equivalent sound in English, but your tongue should be behind lower front teeth and your lips should spread wide
q	Like “ch” in “punch” with the lips spread wide with “ee”
x	Like “sh” in “push” with the lips spread wide with “ee”
z	Sound is almost like the “dz” in “kids”

Initials

c	Sounds like the English “ts” in “cats”
s	Sounds like the “s” in English word “sun”
zh	Sounds similar as the “j” in English “junk”
ch	Sounds like “ch” in “church” with the tongue curled upwards
sh	Sounds like the “sh” in “shirt” with the tongue curled upwards
y	Sounds like “ee” in “bee”
w	Sounds like “oo” in “bamboo”
r	Fairly similar to the “r” sound in the middle of the word “measure”

Initials

Aspirated
Unaspirated
Voiceless

INITIALS: sheng mǔ 声母 (21)

b	p	m	f	d	t	n	l	g	k	h	j	q	x	zh	ch	sh	r	z	c	s
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	---	---	---	---

Aspirated Initials

Aspirated initials are pronounced with a burst of air, creating a slight "h" sound at the beginning. They are typically considered stronger or more forceful sounds compared to their unaspirated counterparts.

Aspirated initials in Mandarin: p, t, k, ch

Examples:

拍 (pāi) - "pat"

天 (tiān) - "sky"

卡 (kǎ) - "card"

差 (chà) - "difference"

Unaspirated Initials

Unaspirated initials do not have a noticeable burst of air or "h" sound at the beginning. They are softer or gentler sounds compared to aspirated initials.

Unaspirated initials in Mandarin: b, d, g, j, z, c, s

Examples:

包 (bāo) - "wrap"

在 (zài) - "at/in"

地 (dì) - "earth"

脏 (zāng) - "dirty"

个 (gè) - "individual"

四 (sì) - "four"

介 (jiè) - "introduce"



Voiceless Initials

Voiceless initials are pronounced without vibrating the vocal cords. They have a distinct lack of vocalization in their sound.

Voiceless initials in Mandarin: f, h

Examples:

飞 (fēi) - "fly"

好 (hǎo) - "good"



Finals

Finals, also known as "vowel sounds," are the sounds that follow the initial in a syllable. They often consist of a vowel sound combined with an optional final consonant. In the pinyin "zhōng," "ōng" is the final sound.

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Finals

a	Sounds very similar as the “a” in father
ai	Similar to the English word “I”
ao	Similar as “ow” in “now”
an	Sounds similar as “an” to British English word “ban”

Finals

ang	Sounds like “ong” in “song”
o	Sounds as “o” in “office”, lips should be more rounded and tighter
ou	Sounds as “o” in “so”
ong	Sounds as combination of “oo” in “book” and ending “ng” in “sing”
e	Sounds similar as “uh” in “duh”
ei	Sounds as “ey” in “hey”
en	Sounds as “en” in “taken”
eng	Sounds as “en” in “taken” but with “ng” added at the end
er	Sounds start from “e” and quickly ends in “r” in “bar”

Finals

i	Sounds like “ee” in “bee”
ia	Sounds like “ya” in “yard”
iao	Sounds like Pinyin “i” + “ao”
ian	Sounds like “yen” in English
iang	Sounds like “young” in English
ie	It’s very short, sounds like “ye” as in “yet”
iu	It sounds like “you” in English
in	Sounds like “in” in English
ing	Pinyin “i” + “ng”. It sounds like “in” in “ink”
iong	Sounds combination of Pinyin “i” + “ong”

Finals

u	Sounds like English “oo” in “bamboo”
ua	Sounds like “wah” in English
uai	Sounds like “why” in English
uan	Sounds like “wan” in English “wand”
uang	Sounds like a Chinese surname “wong”

Finals

uo	Sounds similar as a shorter “owah”
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ui	Sounds like English word “way”
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un	Sounds like English word “one”
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ü	To pronounce this sound, say “ee” with rounded lips
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üe	Sounds as “ü” + “e”, the “ü” is short and light
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üan	Sounds as “ü” + “e” + n, similar to name “Yuan”
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ün	Sounds as “ü” + “n”
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Finals

Simple
Compound
Nasal Compound

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Simple Finals

Simple Finals (单韵母, dān yùnmǔ)

Simple finals consist of a single vowel sound.

Examples include "a" (阿), "o" (哦), "e" (额), "i" (衣), and "u" (乌).
Simple finals are usually short and do not contain a glide or diphthong.



Compound Finals

Compound Finals (复韵母, fù yùnmǔ):

Compound finals are formed by combining a simple vowel sound with a glide (semivowel) "i" or "u."

Examples of compound finals with "i" include "ai" (爱), "ei" (诶), and "ui" (威).

Examples of compound finals with "u" include "ou" (欧), "iu" (秀), and "iu" (流).

Compound finals can be longer and more complex than simple finals.

Nasal Compound Finals

Nasal Compound Finals (鼻音复韵母, bíyīn fù yùnmǔ)

Nasal compound finals are compound finals with a nasal ending.

They are characterized by the addition of a nasal sound (-n or -ng) to the end of a compound final.

Examples include "an" (安), "en" (恩), "ing" (英), "ang" (昂), and "ong" (冲).

Nasal compound finals are typically pronounced with a nasal airflow, similar to the nasalized vowels in languages like French.

Mandarin Chinese Pinyin Chart

	a	o	e	i	ü	er	ai	ei	ao	ou	an	en	ang	eng	ong	i	ia	iao	ie	iu	ian	in	iang	ing	iong	u	ua	uo	uai	ui	uan	un	uang	ueng	ü	üe	üan	ün
	a	o	e			er	ai		ao	ou	an	en	ang	eng		yi	ya	yao	ye	you	yan	yin	yang	ying	yong	wu	wa	wo	wai	wei	wan	wen	wang	weng	yu	yue	yuan	yun
b	ba	bo					bai	bei	bao		ban	ben	bang	beng		bi		biao	bie		bian	bin		bing		bu												
p	pa	po					pai	pei	pao	pou	pan	pen	pang	peng		pi		piao	pie		pian	pin		ping		pu												
m	ma	mo	me				mai	mei	mao	mou	man	men	mang	meng		mi		miao	mie	miu	mian	min		ming		mu												
f	fa	fo						fei		fou	fan	fen	fang	feng											fu													
d	da		de				dai	dei	dao	dou	dan	den	dang	deng	dong	di		diao	die	diu	dian			ding		du		duo		dui	duan	dun						
t	ta		te				tai	tei	tao	tou	tan		tang	teng	tong	ti		tiao	tie		tian			ting		tu		tuo		tui	tuan	tun						
n	na		ne				nai	nei	nao	nou	nan	nen	nang	neng	nong	ni		niao	nie	niu	nian	nin	niang	ning		nu		nuo			nuan				nü	nüe		
l	la		le				lai	lei	lao	lou	lan		lang	leng	long	li	lia	liao	lie	liu	lian	lin	liang	ling		lu		luo			luan	lun			lǚ	lüe		
g	ga		ge				gai	gei	gao	gou	gan	gen	gang	geng	gong										gu	gua	guo	guai	gui	guan	gun	guang						
k	ka		ke				kai	kei	kao	kou	kan	ken	kang	keng	kong										ku	kua	kuo	kuai	kui	kuan	kun	kuang						
h	ha		he				hai	hei	hao	hou	han	hen	hang	heng	hong										hu	hua	huo	huai	hui	huan	hun	huang						
z	za		ze	zi			zai	zei	zao	zou	zan	zen	zang	zeng	zong										zu		zuo		zui	zuan	zun							
c	ca		ce	ci			cai		cao	cou	can	cen	cang	ceng	cong										cu		cuo		cui	cuan	cun							
s	sa		se	si			sai		sao	sou	san	sen	sang	seng	song										su		suo		sui	suan	sun							
zh	zha		zhe		zhi		zhai	zhei	zhao	zhou	zhan	zhen	zhang	zheng	zhong										zhu	zhua	zhuo	zhuai	zhui	zhuan	zhun	zhuang						
ch	cha		che		chi		chai		chao	chou	chan	chen	chang	cheng	chong										chu	chua	chuo	chuai	chui	chuan	chun	chuang						
sh	sha		she		shi		shai	shei	shao	shou	shan	shen	shang	sheng											shu	shua	shuo	shuai	shui	shuan	shun	shuang						
r			re		ri				rao	rou	ran	ren	rang	reng	rong											ru	rua	ruo		rui	ruan	run						
j																ji	jia	jiao	jie	jiu	jian	jin	jiang	jing	jiong										ju	jue	juan	jun
q																qi	qia	qiao	qie	qiu	qian	qin	qiang	qing	qiong										qu	que	quan	qun
x																xi	xia	xiao	xie	xiu	xian	xin	xiang	xing	xiong										xu	xue	xuan	xun



Four Tones

The first tone is the highest. It's like when a doctor examines your throat, you open your mouth and say —ā||.



The second tone is the rising tone —á|| . It's like when you don't understand what somebody says, you say —What?|| in a rising tone.





Four Tones

The third tone falls first and then rises —ǎ|| .



The fourth tone is a falling tone. It's like when somebody hits you suddenly, you shout “à”.



FOUR TONES

shēng diào 声调: FOUR TONES IN MANDARIN:

yī shēng 一声:	First Tone-high, level pitch	—
èr shēng 二声:	Second Tone-starting high and rising	
sān shēng 三声:	Third Tone-falling first, then rising	
sì shēng 四声:	Fourth Tone-fast stress falling	
The tone(sandhi) is marked above the vowel on the Romanized syllable.		

Task: Identify the Initials and the finals present in each pinyin. Copy the given pinyin and write the answer in a short bond paper. To be submitted and checked next week.

Example: lǎoshī (老师) - teacher

Initials: /l/ /sh/ Finals: /ǎo/ /ī/

/s/ /ù/ /sh/ /è/ (宿舍) - dormitory

/x/ /ìng/ /q/ /ī/ // liù (星期六) - Saturday

/f/ /ēi/ /j/ /ī/ (飞机) - airplane

/k/ /ǒng/ /zh/ /ì/ (控制) - control

/w/ /én/ /h/ /uà/ (文化) - culture

/j/ /īng/ /j/ ì (经济) - economy

/h/ /uī/ /y/ /ì/ (会议) - meeting

/x/ /ìn/ /x/ /ī/ (信息) - information

/j/ /ì/ /h/ /uà/ (计划) – plan

/y/ /īn/ /y/ /uè/ (音乐) - music

/l/ /iáng/ /g/ /e/ (两个) - two (quantifier)

/w/ /ài/ /g/ /uó/ (外国) - foreign country

/c/ /è/ /s/ /uǒ/ (厕所) - restroom

/l/ /iǎo/ /j/ /iě/ (了解) - to understand

/x/ /ìn/ /x/ /ī/ (信息) - information

/g/ /uān/ /x/ /ì/ (关系) - relationship

/y/ /īng/ /x/ /ióng/ (英雄) - hero

/p/ /īn/ /y/ /īn/ (拼音) - Pinyin

/y/ /án/ /j/ /iū/ (研究) – research

/zh/ /uān/ /y/ /è/ (专业) - major (academic)

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Initials: /l/ /sh/ Finals: /ǎo/ /ī/

sùshè (宿舍) - dormitory

xìngqīliù (星期六) - Saturday

fēijī (飞机) - airplane

kǒngzhì (控制) - control

wénhuà (文化) - culture

jīngjì (经济) - economy

huìyì (会议) - meeting

xìnxī (信息) - information

jìhuà (计划) – plan

yīnyuè (音乐) - music

liángge (两个) - two (quantifier)

wàiguó (外国) - foreign country

cèsuǒ (厕所) - restroom

liǎojiě (了解) - to understand

xìnxī (信息) - information

guānxì (关系) - relationship

yīngxióng (英雄) - hero

pīnyīn (拼音) - Pinyin

yánjiū (研究) – research

zhuānyè (专业) - major (academic)