

# *Introduction to Chinese Language*

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# *Introduction*

- Chinese is one of the famous languages around the world.
- Mandarin Chinese is the national language of China and most widely spoken first language in the world.
- It is pictorial as well as tonal language.
- Pure Chinese language doesn't have any letters but have strokes
- For instance,

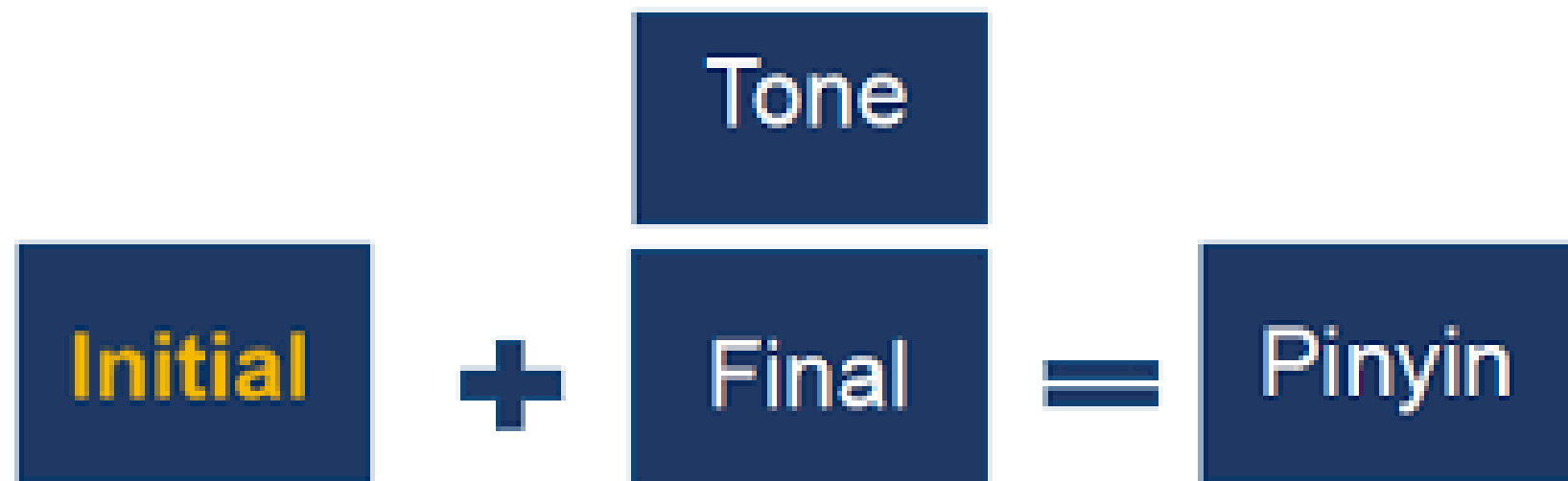
你好吗。 你叫什么名字。

# *Pinyin*

- ***Pinyin*** is the official phonetic system for pronouncing Chinese characters.
- Alike English, Chinese language have number of letters to get basic knowledge called ***Pinyin***.
- ***Pinyin*** started as a means of explaining Chinese to Foreigner.
- ***Pinyin*** system uses 25 of the 26 letters of Roman alphabet.
- Although Pinyin symbols are the same as English letters, the actual sounds they represent can be very different.

# *Parts of Pinyin*

- **Pinyin** is made of three **parts**:
  - i. Initial
  - ii. Final
  - iii. Tone
- The initials and finals may not be difficult for you as we've got the similar letters in English except for the letter “V”. We only need to know how to pronounce each letter in Chinese pronunciation/**Pinyin** system.



# *Initial*

- First letter of syllable called initial.
- Its mostly consist of consonants but this is not the pet rule.
- For instance, In “mā” letter m is the initial of word mā.

# Initials

## Chinese pinyin consonant initials

There are 23 consonant initials in Chinese language pinyin. Some of them are similar to English sounds, some are not.

声母表 Consonant

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

# Initial Pronunciation

<b>b</b> پوہ	<b>d</b> تَع / دَء	<b>g</b> گَع / گَع	<b>j</b> چِی	<b>zh</b> چِر
<b>p</b> پھوہ	<b>t</b> تَہء	<b>k</b> گَہع	<b>q</b> چَہی	<b>ch</b> چَہر
<b>m</b> موہ	<b>n</b> نَع	<b>h</b> حَء / خَع	<b>x</b> شِی	<b>sh</b> شِر
<b>F</b> فوہ	<b>l</b> لَع			<b>r</b> رَء



زَءِ z

اِیِ y

تَسَ c

وُ w

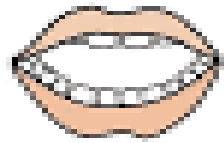
ثَءِ s

# *Finals*

- Last letter of Pinyin called final.
- It consists of vowels in addition of letter “ü”.
- *For instance, In “mā” letter ā is the final of word mā.*

# ***Finals Pronunciation***

<b><i>a</i></b>	<b><i>آ</i></b>	<b><i>o</i></b>	<b><i>أُوآ</i></b>	<b><i>e</i></b>	<b><i>اء</i></b>
<b><i>i</i></b>	<b><i>إِی</i></b>	<b><i>u</i></b>	<b><i>أُوو</i></b>	<b><i>یووع</i></b>	<b><i>ü (ue)</i></b>
				<b><i>yeew/eeew</i></b>	



**a**

ai

ao

an

ang



**o**

ou

ong



**e**

ei

en

eng

er



**i**

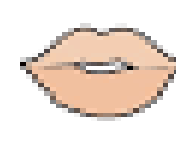
ia

ie

iu

in

ing



**u**

ua

ui

uo

un



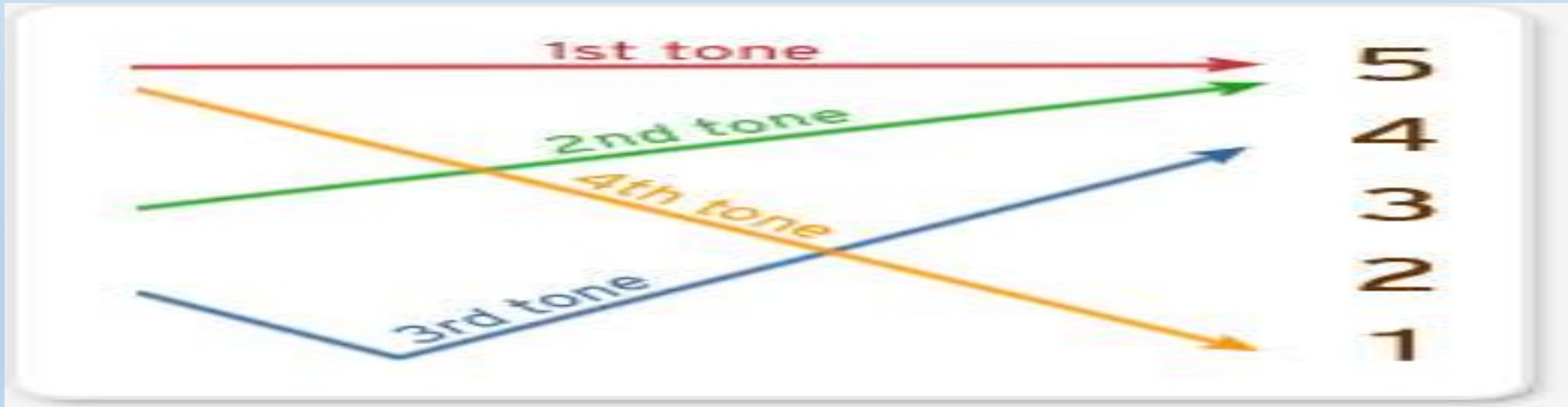
**ü**

üe

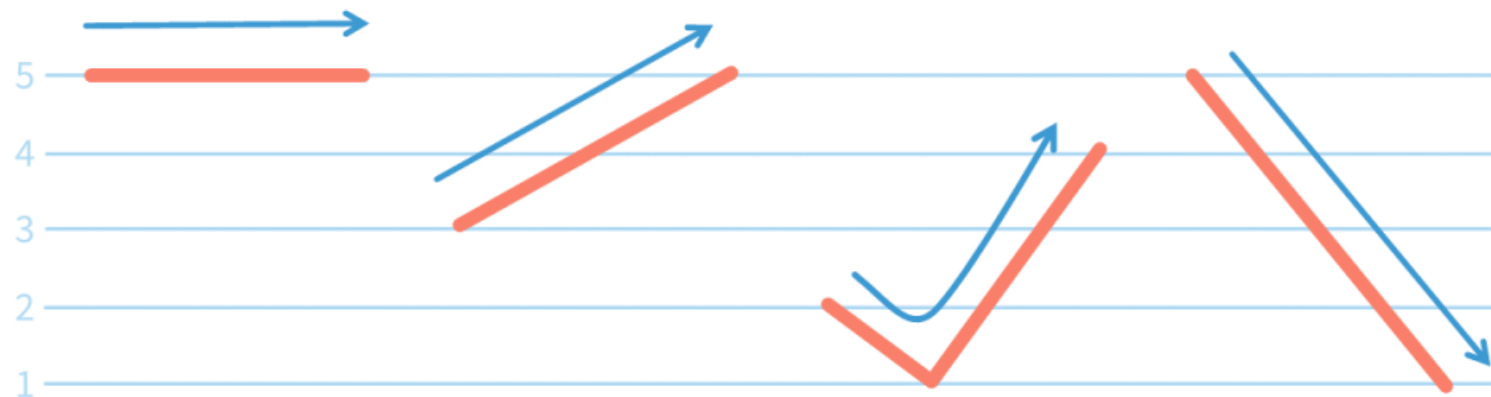
ün

# Tones

- Mandarin Chinese is a tonal language. In order to differentiate meaning, the same syllable can be pronounced with different tones.
- Mandarin is said to have four main tones and one neutral tone (or, as some say, five tones).



- There are five tones in Mandarin Chinese, which are:
  - i. First tone: a level and higher pitch
  - ii. Second tone: rising, start from a lower pitch and end at a higher pitch
  - iii. Third tone: falling rising, start at a neutral tone then dip to a lower pitch before ending at a higher pitch
  - iv. Fourth tone: falling, start the syllable at a slightly higher than neutral pitch then go quickly and strongly downwards
  - v. The neutral tone is pronounced quickly and lightly without regard to pitch. Syllables with a neutral tone have no tone mark



ā

**The 1<sup>ST</sup> Tone**

á

**The 2<sup>ND</sup> Tone**

ǎ

**The 3<sup>RD</sup> Tone**

à

**The 4<sup>TH</sup> Tone**

mā

妈

mother

má

麻

fibre

mǎ

马

horse

mà

骂

curse

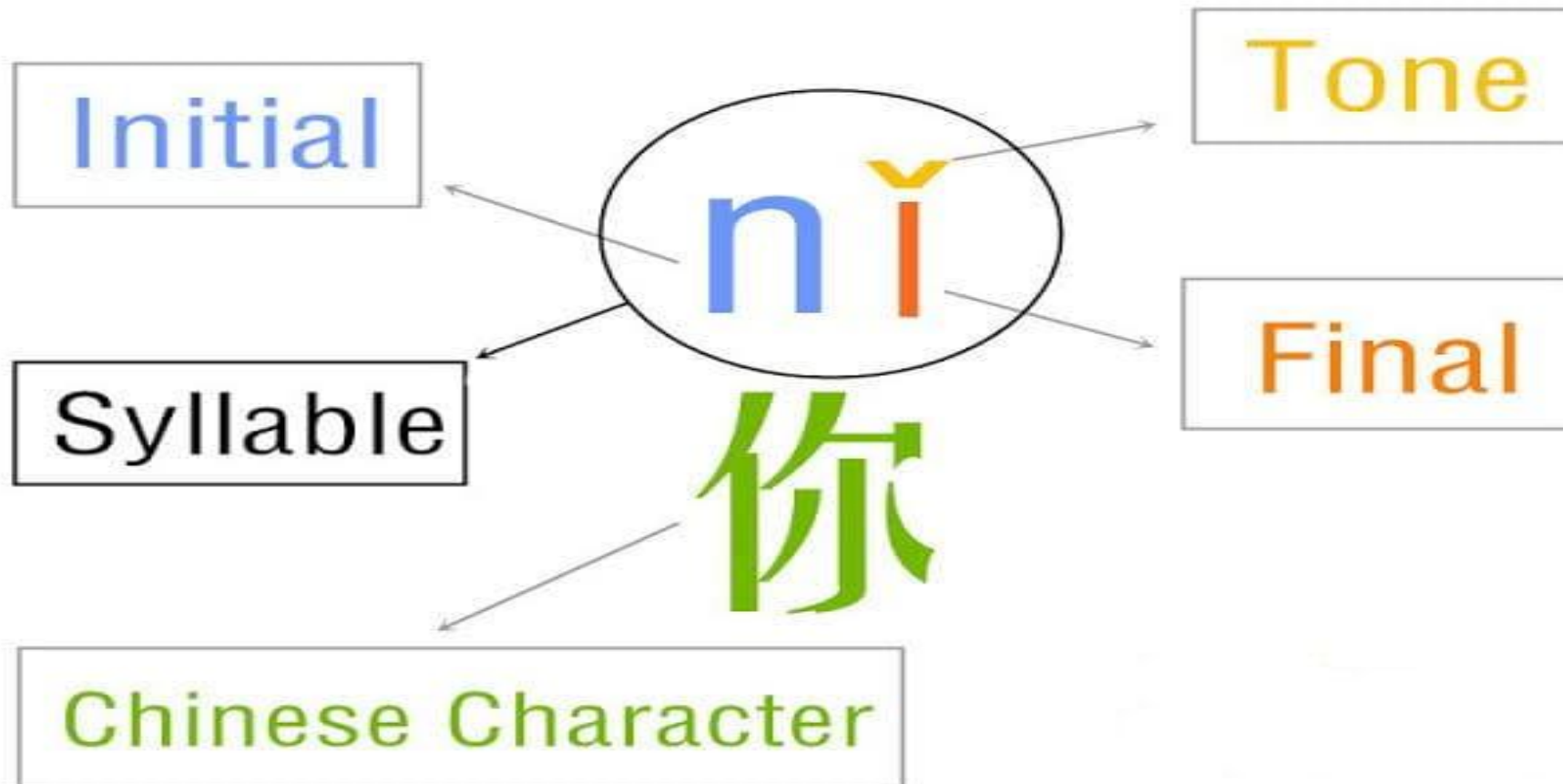
ma

吗

question  
mark







Pinyin table		Initials																					Pinyin table		
		ø	b	p	m	f	d	t	n	l	g	k	h	j	q	x	zh	ch	sh	r	z	c			s
Group a Finals	i															zhi	chi	shi	ri	zi	ci	si	i	Group a Finals	
	a	a	ba	pa	ma	fa	da	ta	na	la	ga	ka	ha				zha	cha	sha		za	ca	sa		a
	o	o	bo	po	mo	fo				lo													o		
	e	e			me		de	te	ne	le	ge	ke	he				zhe	che	she	re	ze	ce	se		e
	ê	ê																					ê		
	ai	ai	bai	pai	mai		dai	tai	nai	lai	gai	kai	hai				zhai	chai	shai		zai	cai	sai		ai
	ei	ei	bei	pei	mei	fei	dei		nei	lei	gei	kei <sup>[table 1]</sup> [table 2]	hei				zhei		shei		zei		sei <sup>[table 2]</sup>		ei
	ao	ao	bao	pao	mao		dao	tao	nao	lao	gao	kao	hao				zhao	chao	shao	rao	zao	cao	sao		ao
	ou	ou		pou	mou	fou	dou	tou	nou	lou	gou	kou	hou				zhou	chou	shou	rou	zou	cou	sou		ou
	an	an	ban	pan	man	fan	dan	tan	nan	lan	gan	kan	han				zhan	chan	shan	ran	zan	can	san		an
	en	en	ben	pen	men	fen	den		nen		gen	ken	hen				zhen	chen	shen	ren	zen	cen	sen		en
	ang	ang	bang	pang	mang	fang	dang	tang	nang	lang	gang	kang	hang				zhang	chang	shang	rang	zang	cang	sang		ang
	eng	eng	beng	peng	meng	feng	deng	teng	neng	leng	geng	keng	heng				zheng	cheng	sheng	reng	zeng	ceng	seng		eng
	ong						dong	tong	nong	long	gong	kong	hong				zhong	chong	shong <sup>[table 2]</sup>	rong	zong	cong	song		ong
er	er																						er		
Group i Finals	i	yi	bi	pi	mi		di	ti	ni	li			ji	qi	xi								i	Group i Finals	
	ia	ya					dia		nia <sup>[table 2]</sup>	lia			jia	qia	xia								ia		
	ie	ye	bie	pie	mie		die	tie	nie	lie			jie	qie	xie								ie		
	iao	yao	biao	piao	miao	fiao <sup>[table 3]</sup>	diao	tiao	niao	liao			jiao	qiao	xiao								iao		
	iu	you			miu		diu		niu	liu			jiu	qiu	xiu								iu		
	ian	yan	bian	pian	mian		dian	tian	nian	lian			jian	qian	xian								ian		
	in	yin	bin	pin	min				nin	lin			jīn	qin	xin								in		
	iang	yang	biang <sup>[table 4]</sup>				diang <sup>[table 2]</sup>		niang	liang			jiang	qiang	xiang										iang
	ing	ying	bing	ping	ming		dīng	ting	ning	ling			jīng	qing	xing										ing
iong	yong											jiong	qiong	xiong									iong		
Group u Finals	u	wu	bu	pu	mu	fu	du	tu	nu	lu	gu	ku	hu				zhu	chu	shu	ru	zu	cu	su	u	Group u Finals
	ua	wa									gua	kua	hua				zhua	chua	shua	rua				ua	
	uo	wo					duo	tuo	nuo	luo	guo	kuo	huo				zhuo	chuo	shuo	ruo	zuo	cuo	suo	uo	
	uai	wai									guai	kuai	huai				zhuai	chuai	shuai					uai	
	ui	wei					dui	tui			gui	kui	hui				zhui	chui	shui	ruì	zui	cui	sui	ui	
	uan	wan					duan	tuan	nuan	luan	guan	kuan	huan				zhuan	chuan	shuan	ruan	zuan	cuan	suan	uan	
	un	wen					dun	tun	nun	lun	gun	kun	hun				zhun	chun	shun	run	zun	cun	sun	un	
	uang	wang									guang	kuang	huang				zhuang	chuang	shuang					uang	
	ueng	weng																						ueng	
Group ū Finals	ū	yu						nū	lū				ju	qu	xu									ū	Group ū Finals
	üe	yue						nüe	lüe <sup>[table 2]</sup>				jue	que	xue									üe	
	üan	yuan							lūan <sup>[table 2]</sup>				juan	quan	xuan									üan	
	ün	yun							lün <sup>[table 2]</sup>				jun	qun	xun									ün	
Pinyin table		ø	b	p	m	f	d	t	n	l	g	k	h	j	q	x	zh	ch	sh	r	z	c	s	Pinyin table	