



HIME Input Method Editor

Windows User Manual



A lightweight input method editor for Traditional Chinese,
supporting Zhuyin (注音), Cangjie (倉頡), and Boshiamy (嘸蝦米).

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<https://github.com/nicehime/hime>

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1. Installation

1.1 System Requirements

- Windows 10 or Windows 11 (64-bit)
- 50 MB free disk space
- Administrator privileges (for installation only)

1.2 Install

Run **hime-install.exe**. An administrator prompt (UAC) will appear — click **Yes** to continue.

- The installer copies files to **C:\Program Files\HIME**.
- It registers the IME with Windows automatically.
- An entry appears in **Settings** → **Apps** for uninstalling later.

To upgrade, simply run hime-install.exe again — it removes the old version first.

1.3 Enable HIME in Windows

1. Open **Settings** → **Time & Language** → **Language & region**.
2. Click your language (e.g. 中文 (繁體, 台灣)) → **Language options**.
3. Under "Keyboards", click **Add a keyboard**.
4. Select "姬 **HIME**" (or "姬 HIME [DEBUG]" for debug builds).

HIME will now appear in the language bar / system tray when you switch to it.

1.4 Uninstall

Run **hime-uninstall.exe** from C:\Program Files\HIME\, or use **Settings** → **Apps** → **HIME Input Method Editor** → **Uninstall**.

2. Getting Started

2.1 Switching to HIME

Press **Win + Space** to cycle through installed input methods. When HIME is active, you will see the HIME icon (姬) in the system tray alongside a mode indicator icon showing your current input method.

2.2 System Tray Icons

When HIME is active, two icons appear in the system tray area:

Icon	Meaning
姬 (purple)	HIME app icon — right-click for menu
注 (blue)	Zhuyin (注音) mode active
倉 (green)	Cangjie 5 (倉五) mode active
蝦 (orange)	Boshiamy (嘸蝦米) mode active
EN (gray)	English passthrough mode

2.3 Quick Mode Switching

Click the **mode indicator icon** (注/倉/蝦/EN) to cycle through enabled input methods. You can also use keyboard shortcuts:

- **Ctrl + `** (backtick) — Cycle: EN → Zhuyin → Cangjie → [Boshiamy] → EN
- **F4** — Same cycle as Ctrl + `

Only enabled methods participate in the cycle. Use Settings to enable/disable methods.

3. System Tray & Mode Switching

3.1 Notification Area Icon

HIME places a **standalone icon** in the Windows notification area (system tray, near the clock). This icon is always visible when HIME is active, regardless of language bar settings — unlike the TSF language bar buttons which Windows 10/11 hides behind the system input indicator.

Left-click the tray icon to cycle through enabled input methods.

Right-click the tray icon to open a popup menu with input method selection, toolbar toggle, Settings, and About.

The icon updates to reflect the current mode (注 for Zhuyin, 倉 for Cangjie, EN for English, etc.), and the tooltip shows the active method name.

3.2 Language Bar Icons

In addition to the notification area icon, HIME also registers **two TSF language bar buttons**:

① **HIME App Icon (姬)** — The main language bar button. Left-click cycles modes. Right-click opens the context menu.

② **Mode Indicator** — Shows the current input mode (注 for Zhuyin, 倉 for Cangjie, 蝦 for Boshiamy, EN for English). Left-click cycles modes.

Note: On Windows 10/11, the language bar buttons may only be visible if you enable the desktop language bar in Settings → Time & Language → Typing → Advanced keyboard settings. The notification area icon works regardless.

3.3 Mode Cycle Order

Each click or Ctrl+` press moves to the next enabled method in this order:



Disabled methods are skipped. Boshiamy only appears if liu.gtab is installed.

3.4 Switching Directly via Menu

Right-click the HIME app icon (姬) and select the desired input method from the menu. A checkmark (✓) indicates the currently active method.

4. Zhuyin (注音) Input

Zhuyin (Bopomofo) is the standard phonetic input method for Traditional Chinese, widely used in Taiwan.

4.1 Keyboard Layout

The standard Zhuyin keyboard layout maps Bopomofo symbols to letter keys:

Key	Symb ol	Key	Symb ol	Key	Symb ol	Key	Symb ol
1	ㄅ	q	ㄆ	2	ㄇ	w	ㄊ
3	ㄋ	e	ㄌ	4	ㄍ	r	ㄎ
5	ㄏ	t	ㄇ	6	ㄎ	y	ㄏ
7	ㄎ	u	ㄏ	8	ㄎ	i	ㄏ
9	ㄏ	o	ㄏ	0	ㄏ	p	ㄏ

Key	Symb ol	Key	Symb ol	Key	Symb ol	Key	Symb ol
a	ㄏ	s	ㄏ	d	ㄏ	f	ㄏ
g	ㄏ	h	ㄏ	j	ㄏ	k	ㄏ
l	ㄏ	;	ㄏ	-	ㄏ		

Key	Symb ol	Key	Symb ol	Key	Symb ol	Key	Symb ol
z	ㄏ	x	ㄏ	c	ㄏ	v	ㄏ
b	ㄏ	n	ㄏ	m	ㄏ	,	ㄏ
.	ㄏ	/	ㄏ				

4.2 Tone Keys

Key	Tone	Name	Example
Space	First (■)	陰平 yīnpíng	媽 m■
6	Second (■)	陽平 yángpíng	麻 má
3	Third (■)	上聲 shàngshēng	馬 m■
4	Fourth (■)	去聲 qùshēng	罵 mà
7	Neutral (■)	輕聲 qīngshēng	嗎 ma

4.3 Input Flow

1. Type the Bopomofo consonant, medial, and vowel keys.
2. Press a tone key (Space for 1st tone, 3/4/6/7 for others).
3. A candidate list appears — press a number key (1–9, 0) to select.
4. The selected character is inserted into your document.

4.4 Example: Typing 你好 (n h o)

Step	Keys	Preedit	Result
1	j (ㄐ) → u (ㄨ)	[注]ㄐㄨ	—
2	3 (third tone)	[注]ㄐㄨㄣ 1.你 2.妳	—
3	1 (select)		你
4	c (ㄘ) → 8 (ㄩ) → o (ㄛ)	[注]ㄘㄩㄛ	—
5	3 (third tone)	[注]ㄘㄩㄛ 1.好 2.郝	—
6	1 (select)		你好

5. Cangjie 5 (倉五) Input

Cangjie is a shape-based input method that decomposes Chinese characters into components mapped to letter keys. Cangjie 5 is the most widely used version.

5.1 Key Layout

Each letter A–Y maps to a Cangjie radical. Z is not used in standard Cangjie.

Key	Radical	Key	Radical	Key	Radical	Key	Radical	Key	Radical
A	日	B	月	C	金	D	木	E	水
F	火	G	土	H	竹	I	戈	J	十
K	大	L	中	M	一	N	弓	O	人
P	心	Q	手	R	口	S	尸	T	甘
U	山	V	女	W	田	X	難	Y	卜

5.2 Input Flow

1. Decompose the character into Cangjie radicals (1–5 keys).
2. Type the corresponding letter keys.
3. If a unique character is found, it is committed automatically.
4. If multiple candidates exist, press a number key to select.
5. Press **Space** to confirm the first candidate.

5.3 Examples

Character	Code	Keys	Meaning
明	日月	A B	Bright
好	女弓木	V N D	Good
中	中	L	Middle
國	田戈口一	W I R M	Country
你	人弓火	O N F	You

The preedit display shows the method label and radicals: [倉]竹手一 1.嗨

6. Boshiamy (嘸蝦米) Input

Boshiamy (嘸蝦米) is a shape-based input method using letter keys to represent character components. It requires a separate table file (**liu.gtab**) that is not included with HIME by default.

6.1 Installing the Boshiamy Table

1. Obtain **liu-uni.tab** from your Boshiamy installation (typically at C:\Program Files\BoshiamyTIP\liu-uni.tab).
2. Convert it using the provided script:

```
python3 scripts/liu-tab2cin.py liu-uni.tab -o data/liu.cin --gtab
```
3. Copy the resulting **liu.gtab** to C:\Program Files\HIME\data\.
4. Restart the application or re-register HIME.

6.2 Usage

Once installed, Boshiamy appears in the mode cycle (Ctrl+`, F4, or click) and in the right-click menu. The tray icon shows the Boshiamy icon (嘸蝦米 logo) when active.

Boshiamy input works the same as Cangjie: type letter codes, then select from candidates. Refer to the official Boshiamy manual for the code table.

6.3 Enabling/Disabling

If you have Boshiamy installed but don't want it in the cycle, open **Settings** (right-click menu → Settings) and uncheck 嘸蝦米 (Boshiamy). It will be skipped when cycling modes.

7. Right-Click Menu

Right-click the **HIME notification area icon** or the **HIME language bar button** (姬) to open the context menu:

Menu Item	Description
✓ 注音 (Zhuyin)	Switch to Zhuyin input mode. Checkmark shows current mode.
倉五 (Cangjie 5)	Switch to Cangjie 5 input mode.
嘸蝦米 (Boshiamy)	Switch to Boshiamy mode (only if liu.gtab installed).
■■■■■■■■■■	Separator
■ IME Toolbar	Toggle the floating toolbar on/off. Checkmark when visible.
■■■■■■■■■■	Separator
Settings...	Open the Settings dialog to enable/disable input methods.
About HIME	Show version and project information.

Only **enabled** input methods appear in the menu. Use Settings to control which methods are available.

8. Settings

Open Settings from the right-click menu → **Settings...**

8.1 Input Method Selection

The Settings dialog shows checkboxes for each available input method:

■	注音 (Zhuyin)	Phonetic/Bopomofo input
■	倉五 (Cangjie 5)	Shape-based Cangjie input
■	嘸蝦米 (Boshiamy)	Boshiamy input (requires liu.gtab)

8.2 Rules

- **At least one** input method must remain enabled at all times.
- If you disable the currently active method, HIME automatically switches to the first enabled method.
- If Boshiamy (liu.gtab) is not installed, its checkbox is grayed out.
- English (EN) passthrough mode is always available regardless of settings.
- Only enabled methods participate in the Ctrl+`/F4 and click cycle.

8.3 About Dialog

Select **About HIME** from the right-click menu to see:

姬 **HIME Input Method Editor**

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<https://github.com/nicehime/hime>

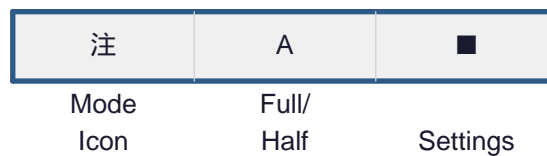
9. Floating Toolbar

The floating toolbar is a small popup window that provides quick access to common functions without needing the system tray.

9.1 Enabling the Toolbar

Right-click the HIME icon → select **HIME Toolbar**. A checkmark indicates the toolbar is visible. Select again to hide it.

9.2 Toolbar Layout



Area	Click Action
Mode Icon (left)	Cycle to next input method
Full/Half (middle)	Toggle full-width ↔ half-width characters
Settings Gear (right)	Open Settings dialog

9.3 Position

The toolbar appears in the bottom-right corner of the screen, above the Windows taskbar. It stays on top of other windows.

10. Keyboard Shortcuts

Shortcut	Function	Context
Win + Space	Switch between installed IMEs	Any time
Ctrl + ` (backtick)	Cycle HIME modes (EN/注/倉/蝦)	When HIME is active
F4	Same as Ctrl + `	When HIME is active
Space	1st tone / Confirm selection	During input
3 / 4 / 6 / 7	2nd / 3rd / 4th / Neutral tone	Zhuyin input
1 – 9, 0	Select candidate	Candidate list shown
Escape	Cancel current input	During input
Backspace	Delete last component	During input

11. Troubleshooting

HIME doesn't appear in language settings

- Ensure you ran **hime-install.exe** as Administrator.
- Check that both hime-core.dll and hime-tsf.dll exist in C:\Program Files\HIME\.
- Try manual registration: open Command Prompt as Administrator and run:

```
regsvr32 "C:\Program Files\HIME\hime-tsf.dll"
```

No characters appear when typing

- Verify that pho.tab2 exists in C:\Program Files\HIME\data\.
- Make sure you are in Chinese mode (icon shows 注/倉/蝦, not EN).
- Some legacy applications do not support TSF — try Notepad or a modern app.

Boshiamy is not available

- Check that liu.gtab exists in C:\Program Files\HIME\data\.
- See section 6.1 for conversion instructions.
- After placing liu.gtab, restart the application or re-register HIME.

DLL files are 'blocked' by Windows

- Right-click the DLL file → Properties → check **Unblock** → Apply.
- This may happen if the DLLs were downloaded from the internet.

System tray icons don't update

- Click another application and click back — this refreshes the tray.
- If icons are missing, the icons/ folder may not be in the install directory.

Need more help? Visit <https://github.com/nicehime/hime/issues>