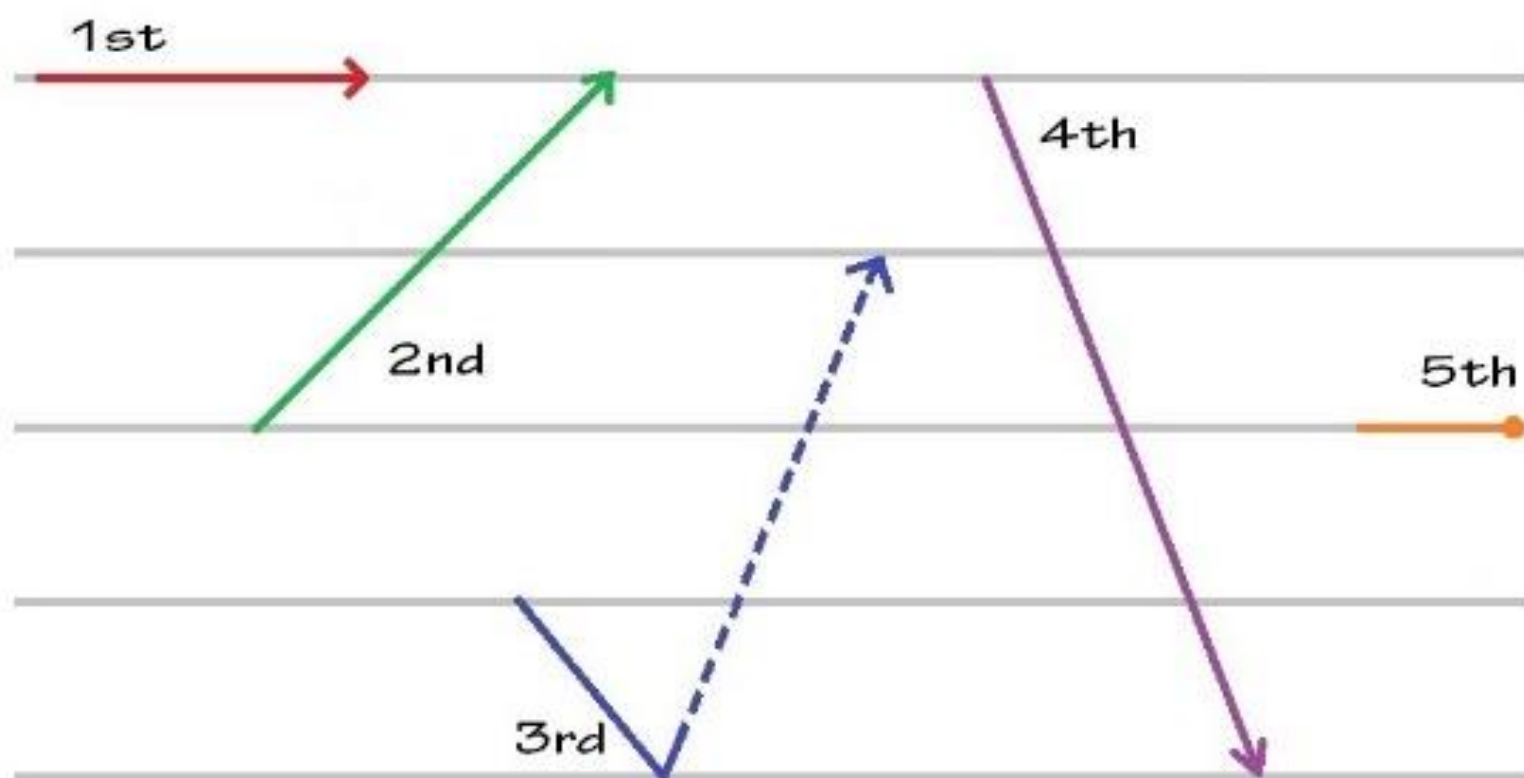


TONES

Mandarin has four main tones, and then a neutral fifth tone that is used occasionally (especially for familial relations, the plural marker *-men*, and the nominal suffix *-zi*). The diacritical marks for the tones and a chart indicating the relative pitch of each tone is shown on the next page.

Note that on the pitch chart, the numbers 1-5 on the right indicate relative pitch and *do not* correlate with the tones. Line 3 on the chart represents one's normal speaking voice. Line 5 represents a high pitch compared to Line 3, and Line 1 a low pitch.

Pitch Chart for Chinese Tones



1st tone: ¯ as in *tiāo*

2nd tone: ´ as in *tiáo*

3rd tone: ˇ as in *tiǎo*

4th tone: ` as in *tiào*

5th tone: no mark, *tiao*

For the 3rd tone, if no syllable follows it, the tone continues all the way up to Line 2. Most of the time, however, it will only go down; the part that is left unsaid is indicated by a dotted line. Some have termed this a “half 3rd tone.” Beginning students often make the mistake of wanting to pronounce whole 3rd tones every time, not realizing that when a 3rd tone is part of a sentence and is

pronounced fully, not only is it too long and cumbersome, it can also sound like a 2nd tone to those listening.

Let's practice the four tones, reading one column at a time. This drill uses full 3rd tones.

1 st	mā	tuō	xiāng	shī
2 nd	má	tuó	xiáng	shí
3 rd	mǎ	tuǒ	xiǎng	shǐ
4 th	mà	tuò	xiàng	shì

Now practice again using half 3rd tones:

1 st	mā	tuō	xiāng	shī
2 nd	má	tuó	xiáng	shí
3 rd	mǎ	tuǒ	xiǎng	shǐ
4 th	mà	tuò	xiàng	shì

Next practice the sounds and tones by
counting from 1-10:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
yī	èr	sān	sì	wǔ	liù	qī	bā	jiǔ	shí