

MASTERY DRILLS

In the following drills, you will practice various tone combinations, as well as difficult sounds that are easily confused.

The combination drills for two and three syllables are comprised of actual and useful phrases. English has been provided below each entry, but mustn't be allowed to detract from the pronunciation practice. A space between syllables represents that two terms are being used (e.g., *hěn jiējìn* “very close”). No spaces means the syllables form a single term.

Mastery of the rules for *pīnyīn*, pronunciation, and tones given above, as well as the practice of the following drills should be a daily part of your language

study. Five minutes each day in a quiet place free from distractions is optimal. This should continue for the first year of study. While this may seem long, consider the fact that piano students often practice techniques daily for years. The stronger your foundation in *pīnyīn* and tones, the better and faster you can progress in the language.