

## ***Finals***

Finals, as mentioned above, can be as simple as one vowel (as in *bà* or *mā*), have a diphthong (as in *hǎo* or *huài*), or have a combination of vowels and consonants (as in *yīn* or *yáng*). The finals are presented below according to sound groups.

### A VOWEL SET

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<b>a</b>	Sounds like the <i>a</i> in <i>father</i>
<b>ai</b>	Sounds like <i>eye</i> or <i>aye</i>
<b>ao</b>	Like <i>ow</i> in <i>cow</i> , but with the <i>a</i> sound from <i>father</i>
<b>an</b>	Sounds similar to <i>on</i> , but with the <i>a</i> from <i>father</i>
<b>ang</b>	Like the <i>ong</i> in <i>song</i> , but with the <i>a</i> from <i>father</i>

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### E VOWEL SET

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<b>e</b>	Sounds like <i>uh</i>
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<b>ei</b>	Sounds like the <i>ay</i> in <i>day</i>
<b>en</b>	Sounds like the <i>un</i> in <i>fun</i>
<b>eng</b>	Sounds like the <i>ung</i> in <i>sung</i>
<b>er</b>	A combination of <i>uh</i> and the <i>er</i> in <i>better</i> (but pronounced as one syllable)

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### I VOWEL SET

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<b>*i</b>	Sounds like <i>ee</i> ; in the <i>z</i> initial set it makes a “z” sound, in the <i>zh</i> set it makes an “er” sound.
<b>ia</b>	Sounds similar to <i>ye</i> followed by the <i>a</i> in <i>father</i>
<b>iao</b>	Sounds like <i>ye</i> plus <i>ao</i> from the A vowel set
<b>ian</b>	Sounds like <i>yen</i>
<b>iang</b>	Sounds like <i>ye</i> followed by <i>ang</i>
<b>ie</b>	Sounds like <u>y</u> <i>es</i> , minus the <i>s</i>

<b>in</b>	Sounds like the <i>een</i> from <i>seen</i>
<b>ing</b>	Sounds like the <i>ing</i> in <i>fling</i>
<b>iong</b>	Sounds like <i>yo</i> (as in “Yo, what’s up!”) plus <i>-ng</i>
<b>iu</b>	Sounds like <i>yo</i>

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### O VOWEL SET

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<b>o</b>	Sounds similar to the <i>o</i> in <i>on</i> , but with rounded lips
<b>ou</b>	Sounds like <i>owe</i>
<b>ong</b>	Sounds like <i>owe</i> plus <i>ng</i>

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### U VOWEL SET

<b>*u</b>	Sounds like the <i>u</i> in <i>nuance</i> or <i>sue</i> , but stronger
<b>ua</b>	Sounds like the <i>wa</i> in <i>water</i>
<b>uai</b>	Sounds like the <i>wi</i> in <i>wine</i>
<b>uan</b>	Sounds like the <i>won</i> in <i>wonton</i>
<b>uang</b>	Sounds like <i>wong</i>
<b>ui</b>	Sounds like <i>way</i>
<b>un</b>	Sounds like the <i>woo</i> from <i>wood</i> plus <i>n</i>
<b>uo</b>	Sounds similar to <i>w</i> plus the <i>o</i> from <i>on</i> (rounded lips)

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## Ü VOWEL SET

**\*ü** Say *oo* with pursed lips,  
then say *ee* inside your  
mouth without moving your  
lips

**üe** Sounds like *ü* then the *e*  
from *bet*

**üan** Sounds like *ü* then the *en*  
from *ten*

**ün** Sounds like *ü* plus *n*