

11. –*ÜE* and –*ÜAN*

Some students pronounce *-üe* and *-üan* as two syllables. This is the result of pronouncing the *ü* like the English word “you,” which cannot be followed by a short *e* sound without inserting a *w* sound too. Thus *yue* is errantly pronounced as a slurred “U.S.” (minus the *s*), and *yuan* comes out sounding like “U.N.” If the *ü* is pronounced correctly, a short *e* sound can be made while maintaining the monosyllabic nature of the syllable. This is done by starting with pursed lips for the *yu*, then proceeding out with the short “e” sound. Also, be careful not to pronounce *xue* or *jue* with a long *a* sound (like *day*) at the end, one of the hallmarks of American-accented Chinese.

yue

yuan

xue

xuan

jue

juan

que

quan