

Drills and Quizzes
in Mandarin Chinese Pronunciation

汉语发音 练习及测验

[美] 马盛静恒 编著

Jing Heng Sheng Ma



北京语言文化大学出版社

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She grew up in China's mainland and Taiwan, received her B.Fd. at Taiwan Normal University, her M.A. in Applied Linguistics at the University of Michigan, and her Ph.D. in Chinese Linguistics at the University of Michigan.

She has written many articles on Chinese grammar and Chinese linguistics. She is the author of *Chinese Language Patterns: A Computerized Resource: A Study of the Mandarin Chinese Verb Suffix Zhe*, and *Chinese Unmasked: Grammatical Principle and Applications*. She has also published four Learning Guides that accompany the Chinese films *Strange Friends*, *At Middle Age*, *A Great Wall*, and *The Story of Ah Q*. Recently, she has devoted her time to developing computer software for teaching Chinese as a second language. She is the co-author of *HyperChinese: The Pronunciation Modules* and *HyperChinese: The Grammar Modules*. The latter was selected by EDUCOM as a Distinguished Humanities (Foreign Languages) Software Awards Program in 1993.

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This project reflects insights gained through years of teaching, concerning common errors made by students as they learn spoken Mandarin Chinese. It also builds on the Chinese language textbook writers who have contributed to the study of the Chinese language. The most important of these include: Yuan-ren Chao , *Mandarin Primer* (1949), and John DeFrancis, *Beginning Chinese* (1963). I would like to express my sincere thanks to them.

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Jing Heng Sheng Ma

马盛静恒

1998

Foreword

One of the most important tasks in learning Chinese is the mastery of Chinese pronunciation. The period of the first twenty or thirty hours to be devoted to pronunciation is the most critical of the whole course. Conscientious work at the phonetic stage will result in great ease in subsequent command of the language. The degree of overall success students achieve in learning Chinese will depend upon the mastery of Chinese pronunciation.

Drills and Quizzes in Mandarin Chinese Pronunciation is designed to provide the learners an efficient way to master the Mandarin Chinese pronunciation. The well designed drills and quizzes will engage the students in an active learning experience. Drills deal with the different needs of students with a Cantonese or Taiwanese background and those with no Chinese background.

The material is divided into three modules, each with a varying number of units. The Introduction provides with the general information on Mandarin Chinese pronunciation in English, students can read the material at home and save the classroom time for drills. Module One consists of presentations, drills and quizzes. Module Two and Three consist of drills and quizzes only. The quizzes are intended for self-testing. They can be used by the instructor for testing purposes in class or in the language lab. All exercises are intended for use with the accompanying tapes. This is necessary, so that learners can listen and repeat after a native speaker.

Two other unique features in this material are: the enlarged pronunciation charts is designed for the instructor to be copied on the transparency film for classroom teaching. Answer Keys for all quizzes also provided for self-learners and instructors to check the result quickly.

This material can be used independently, or in conjunction with the CD-ROM *HyperChinese: The Pronunciation Modules*, published by Cheng & Tsui Company, Boston, U.S.A. .

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- (L) 3rd-Tone + 4th-Tone
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- (N) 4th-Tone + 2nd-Tone
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- (B) The **h-f** Contrast
- (C) The **l-r-n** Contrast
- (D) Contrast of Retroflexes **zh ch sh** and Sibilants **z c s**
- (E) Contrast of Retroflexes **zh ch sh** and Palatals **j q x**
- (a) Drills
- (b) Quizzes

Unit II: Contrasts of Finals in Two-Syllable Words

- (A) The **i-ü** Contrast
- (B) The **ian-üan** Contrast
- (C) The **ie-üe** Contrast
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- (F) The **n-ng** Contrast
- (G) The **en-eng** Contrast
- (a) Drills
- (b) Quizzes

INTRODUCTION: The Sounds of Mandarin Chinese *

The syllable in Mandarin Chinese is made up of three parts: an initial, a final, and a tone. For example, **dà**, the **d** represents the initial, **a** the final and **`** the tone.

1. There are seven groups of initials:

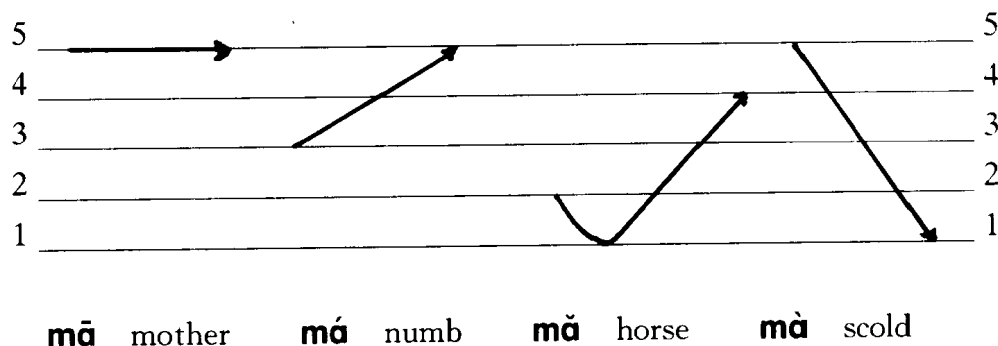
- (1) Simple Initials: **m f n l**
- (2) Voiceless, unaspirated: **b d g**
- (3) Voiceless, aspirated: **p t k**
- (4) Retroflexes: **zh ch sh r**
- (5) Sibilants: **z c s**
- (6) Palatals: **j q x**
- (7) Velar or uvular: **h**

2. There are six groups of finals:

- (1) Group-**a**: **a an ang ai ao**
- (2) Group-**o/e**: **o e en eng ei ou ong**
- (3) Group-**u**: **u ua uo uai ui uan un uang ueng**
- (4) Group-**i**: **i ia iao ie iu ian in iang ing iong**
- (5) Group-**ü**: **ü üe üan ün**
- (6) Group-**r**: final **r** occurs as part of the syllable **er** and as a suffix attached to many of the finals listed in the previous lists.

3. Tones

Tone is the variation of pitch within a syllable. Tones are part of all Chinese words. Chinese uses tones to distinguish words. Therefore, it is very important to say the tone of each word correctly. In the Beijing dialect there are four basic tones and a neutral tone. The following chart illustrate the four basic tones:



Tone	Chinese name	Description	Pitch	Symbol
1st	Yīnpíng	阴(陰)平 high-level	55:	(ˉ)
2nd	Yángpíng	阳(陽)平 high-rising	35:	(ˊ)
3rd	Shǎngshēng	上声(聲) low-dipping	214:	(ˇ)
4th	Qùshēng	去声(聲) high-falling	51:	(ˋ)

These tones vary relatively to the range of the speaker's voice. They maintain their distinctive characteristics whether enunciated by a soprano voice or a bass voice. The tone mark is placed over a vowel letter:

mā zhí chě fù

If there are three vowels in a syllable, it is written over the middle vowel:

kuāi huán chuǎng qiang

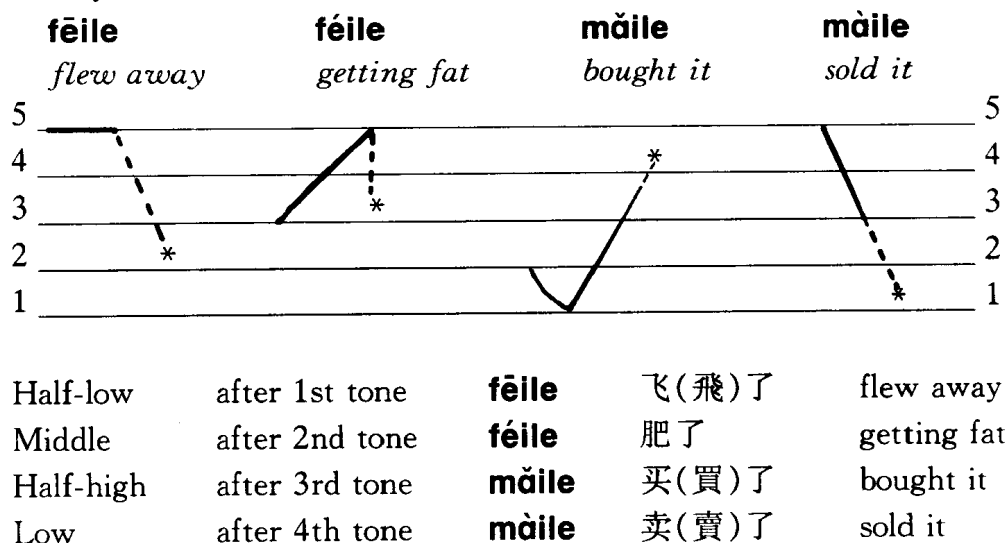
If there are two vowels, it is placed over the first, unless this is **i** or **u**:

āi áo ěi òu

iā ié iǔ

uā ué uǐ uò

The neutral tone, occurs on stressless syllables and has a pitch entirely determined by the tones of adjacent syllables. Neutral tones are unmarked in the present transcription. The pitch of a neutral syllable after each of the four tones is illustrated by the (*) in the accompanying chart.



* The description of the Sounds of Mandarin Chinese in this book is based on Yuan-ren Chao (1948). *Mandarin Primer*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press and John DeFrancis (1963). *Beginning Chinese*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

MODULE ONE: Four Basic Tones and Single-Syllable Words Exercises

Unit I: Combinations of Simple Initials with Group-**a** Finals

1. Simple Initials: **m n f l**

Group-**a** Finals: **a ai ao an ang**

The initials **m, n, l** and **f** have the same pronunciation in Chinese as in English.

m as in might

n as in night

f as in fight

l as in light

The Group-**a** Finals:

a as in father

ai as in aisle

ao like the au in sauerkraut

an as between the an in can and the on in con

ang a as in father plus ng as in sing

The group-**a** finals can all occur by themselves (that is, without an initial).

* * * DRILLS * * *

(A) Combinations of Initials **m n** with **a ai** Finals:

(1)	ā	á	ǎ	à
(2)	mā	má	mǎ	mà
(3)	āi	ái	ǎi	ài
(4)	nài	nǎi	nái	nǎi

(B) Combinations of Initials **f l** with **ao an ang** Finals:

(5)	āo	áo	ǎo'	ào
(6)	lāo	lào	láo	lǎo
(7)	àn	ǎn	án	ān

Drills Module One

(8)	fán	fǎn	fān	fàn
(9)	áng	àng	ǎng	āng
(10)	fǎng	fáng	fāng	fàng

2. Simple Initials: **b d g** (voiceless, unaspirated)

p t k (voiceless, aspirated)

Velar or uvular: **h** (voiceless)

Group-**a** Finals: **a ai ao an ang**

b like the p in spy (not the b in buy)

p as in pie, but with a much stronger aspiration

d like t in sty (not like d in die)

t as in tie, but with a much stronger aspiration

g like the k in sky (not like the g in guy)

k as in kite, but with a much stronger aspiration

h like the ch in German nach — that is, much rougher than English h

* * * DRILLS * * *

The Unaspirated **b d g** - Aspirated **p t k** and **h*** Contrast:

(1)	bà 爸	pà 怕
(2)	bǎo 饱(飽)	pǎo 跑
(3)	dǎ 打	tǎ 塔
(4)	dāng 当(當)	tāng 汤(湯)
(5)	gàn 干(幹)	kàn 看
(6)	gāi 该(該)	kāi 开(開)
(7)		hā 哈
(8)		hái 孩
(9)		hǎo 好
(10)		hàn 汉(漢)
(11)		háng 行

* In Mandarin Chinese, **h** is unaspirated. But the **h** pronounced by many American students is too weak so that, for example, **huài** cannot be differentiated from **wài**. For this reason, this book provides drills that put **h** together with aspirated initials for practice in order to correct the errors in pronunciation of those students.