

ENGLISH - CHINESE

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CONVERSATION

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英 中 会 話

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# KEY TO CHINESE PHONETIC SYMBOLS

## CONSONANTS

Phonetic Symbols	Approximate English Equivalents
<b>b</b>	b as in "be"
<b>p</b>	p as in "par"
<b>m</b>	m as in "man"
<b>f</b>	f as in "food"
<b>d</b>	d as in "do"
<b>t</b>	t as in "ten"
<b>n</b>	n as in "no"
<b>l</b>	l as in "land"
<b>g</b>	g as in "go"
<b>k</b>	k as in "kind"
<b>h</b>	h as in "her"
<b>j</b>	j as in "jeep"
<b>q</b>	ch as in "cheek"
<b>x</b>	sh as in "she" (pronounced lightly)
<b>zh</b>	j as in "jump" (tip of tongue curved back)
<b>ch</b>	ch as in "chew" (tip of tongue curved back)

<b>sh</b>	sh as in "shore" (tip of tongue curved back)
<b>r</b>	between English r in "run" and French j in "jeune"
<b>z</b>	ds as in "deeds"
<b>c</b>	ts as in "tsar"
<b>s</b>	s as in "sister"
<b>ng</b>	ng as in "sing"
<b>y</b>	y as in "you"
<b>w</b>	w as in "way"

## VOWELS

<b>Phonetic Symbols</b>	<b>Approximate English Equivalents</b>
<b>a</b>	a as in "father"
<b>o</b>	aw as in "law"
<b>e</b>	er as in "her", the r being silent
<b>i, yi</b>	ea as in "eat"
<b>u, wu</b>	oo as in "too"
<b>ü, yu</b>	as German "ü"
<b>ai</b>	ai as in "aisle"
<b>ao</b>	ow as in "now"
<b>ou</b>	ow as in "low"
<b>ei</b>	ei as in "eight"
<b>ia, ya</b>	ia as in "Asia"

<b>iao, yao</b>	yow as in "yowl"
<b>iou, iu, you</b>	ew as in "few"
<b>ie, ye</b>	ye as in "yes"
<b>ua, wa</b>	wa as in "waft"
<b>uai, wai</b>	wi as in "wife"
<b>uo, wo</b>	wa as in "water"
<b>uei, ui, wei</b>	way
<b>üe, yue</b>	ü + eh
<b>er</b>	err
<b>-i (in zi, ci, si)</b>	prolonged ds, ts, s
<b>-i (in zhi, chi, shi)</b>	prolonged dr, ch, sh

### VOWELS + N OR NG

<b>Phonetic Symbols</b>	<b>Approximate English Equivalents</b>
<b>an</b>	ahn, or an as in "lance"
<b>ian, yan</b>	ien as in "lenient"
<b>uan, wan</b>	wan as in "wander"
<b>üan, yuan</b>	ü + ahn
<b>en</b>	en as in "omen"
<b>un</b>	w + en
<b>in, yin</b>	in as in "machine"
<b>ün, yun</b>	ü + n
<b>ang</b>	ang as in German "bang"
<b>iang, yang</b>	i ahng
<b>uang, wang</b>	oo ahng

<b>ong</b>	ung as in German "Zeitung"
<b>iong, yong</b>	y_oong
<b>eng</b>	ung as in "sung"
<b>ueng, weng</b>	oo_ng
<b>ing, ying</b>	ing as in "sing"

### THE FOUR TONES

Each Chinese vowel has not only its proper sound (as indicated by the spelling) but also a certain tone of voice which helps to determine its meaning.

In the standard speech, there are four tones. They can be described as follows:

The first tone, marked  $-$ , is spoken high but the voice neither rises nor falls, as in mā 媽 (mother).

The second tone, marked  $/$ , starts with the voice lower but ends up as high as in the first, as in má 麻 (hemp).

In the third tone, marked  $\vee$ , the voice is dropped at first and then rises in rather a drawn-out way, as in mǎ 馬 (horse).

In the fourth tone, marked  $\backslash$ , the voice falls from high to low, as in mà 罵 (to scold).

When a syllable is neutral, no tone mark is called for. Thus: Hǎo ma? 好嗎? (Is it good?)

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## 1. MEETING PEOPLE

### 会 見 HUIJIAN

1. How do you do?

您 好!  
**Nin hao!**

2. Pleased to meet you!

我 非 常 高 兴 和 您 認 識。  
**Wo feichang gaoxing he nin renshi.**

3. Allow me to introduce myself, my name is . . . .

讓 我 介 紹 自 己, 我 是 . . . . .  
**Rang wo jieshao ziji, wo shi . . . . .**

4. May I ask your (name) (occupation)?

請 問 您 的 (大名) (职业)。  
**Qing wen ninde (daming) (zhiye).**

5. I am from (abroad).

我 从 (外 国) 来。  
**Wo cong (wai guo) lai.**

Afghanistan

阿 富 汗

**Afuhan**

Albania

阿 尔 巴 尼 亚

**A'erbaniya**

Algeria

阿尔及利亚

**A'erjiliya**

the Arab United

Republic

阿拉伯 联合

**Alabo Lianhe**

共和国 (阿联)

**Gongheguo (Alian)**

Argentine

阿根廷

**Agenting**

Australia

澳大利亚

**Aodaliya**

Austria

奥地利

**Aodili**

Brazil

巴西

**Baxi**

Britain

英国

**Yingguo**

Bulgaria

保加利亚

**Baojialiya**

Burma

緬甸

**Miandian**

Cambodia

柬埔寨

**Jianpusai**

Canada

加拿大

**Jianada**

Chile

智利

**Zhili**

Colombia

哥伦比亚

**Gelunbiya**

Congo

刚果

**Gangguo**

Cuba

古巴

**Guba**

Czechoslovakia

捷克斯洛伐克

**Jekesilofake**

Denmark

丹麦

**Danmai**

the Democratic Re- public of Germany 民主德国 <b>Minzhu Deguo</b>	Italy 意大利 <b>Yidali</b>
Finland 芬兰 <b>Fenlan</b>	Japan 日本 <b>Riben</b>
France 法国 <b>Faguo</b>	Korea 朝鲜 <b>Chaoxian</b>
Ghana 加纳 <b>Jiana</b>	Laos 老挝 <b>Laowo</b>
Guinea 几内亚 <b>Jineiya</b>	Mongolia 蒙古 <b>Menggu</b>
Hungary 匈牙利 <b>Xiongyali</b>	Mali 马里 <b>Mali</b>
India 印度 <b>Yindu</b>	Mexico 墨西哥 <b>Moxige</b>
Indonesia 印度尼西亚 <b>Yingdunixiya</b>	Morocco 摩洛哥 <b>Moluoge</b>
Iraq 伊拉克 <b>Yilake</b>	Nepal 尼泊尔 <b>Niboer</b>

New Zealand

新西兰  
**Xinxilan**

Nigeria

尼日利亚  
**Niriliya**

Norway

挪威  
**Nuowei**

Pakistan

巴基斯坦  
**Bajisitan**

Peru

秘鲁  
**Milu**

Poland

波兰  
**Bolan**

Rumania

罗马尼亚  
**Lomaniya**

Somali

索马里  
**Suomali**

Sweden

瑞典  
**Ruidian**

Switzerland

瑞士  
**Ruishi**

Tanganyika

坦噶尼喀  
**Tanganika**

Tunisia

突尼斯  
**Tunisi**

the United States of  
America

美国  
**Meiguo**

the Union of Soviet  
Socialist Republics

苏联  
**Sulian**

Venezuela

委内瑞拉  
**Weineiruila**

Viet Nam

越南  
**Yuenan**

Yugoslavia

南斯拉夫  
**Nansilafu**



6. I have come for the (May Day celebrations)  
(National Day celebrations).

我 是 庆 祝 (五 一 节) (国 庆 节)  
**Wo shi qingzhu (Wu-Yi jie) (Guoqing jie)**  
来 的。  
**lai de.**

7. I am (the head) (a member) of the delega-  
tion for the May Day celebrations.

我 是 庆 祝 五 一 节 观 礼 代 表  
**Wo shi qingzhu Wu-Yi jie guanli daibiao-**  
团 (团 长) (团 员)。  
**tuan (tuanzhang) (tuanyuan).**

8. We are visiting China at the invitation of  
the (Chinese People's Association for Cul-  
tural Relations with Foreign Countries)  
(Ministry of Culture, Academy of Sciences,  
Commission for Cultural Relations with  
Foreign Countries).

我 們 是 应 (中 国 人 民 对  
**Women shi ying (Zhongguo Renmin Dui**  
外 文 化 协 会) (文 化 部、科 学  
**Wai Wenhua Xiehui) (Wenhua Bu, Kexue**  
院、对 外 文 化 联 络 委 员  
**Yuan, Dui Wai Wenhua Lianluo Weiyuan-**  
会) 的 邀 请 来 中 国 访 问 的。  
**hui) de yaoqing lai Zhongguo fangwen de.**