

# Pin Yin

## — Mandarin Chinese Phonetics

### Initials

1. **b, p, m, f** : Basically sound like the English letters b, p, m, and f, except when combined with an “o”. If put with an “o”, the end result sounds like a New Yorker saying the end of the word “door”. Listen carefully to the teacher pronouncing these sounds.
2. **d, t, n, l, g, k, h** : Basically sound like the English letters d, t, n, l, g, k, and h, except they are produced towards the back of the throat and use more breath.
3. **j**: “gee”, **q**: “chee”, **x**: “shee” :The tongue is not curled for these sounds.
4. **zh**: “jr”, **ch**: “chr”, **sh**: “shr”, **r**: very different from “r” in English : The tongue should be curled towards the roof of your mouth when saying any of these 4 letters. The tongue is in the exact same position for all four letters.
5. **z**: “dz”, **c**: “ts” as in “cats”, **s**: Think of a snake hissing, “ss”. Your tongue should be near or touching your front teeth for these letters.
6. **y**: “ee”, **w**: “oo” (NOT “yee” or “woo”) These letters have the same pronunciation as the finals “i” and “u”.

### Finals

1. **-a**: “ah” as in “father” . This letter has different sounds depending on what final it is part of . See “-an”, “-ang”, “-ian”, and “-uan”.
2. **-ai**: “ai” as in “aisle”, **-ao**: “ow” as in “cow”, but softer, and don’t close your lips when saying it.
3. **-e**: “uh” as in “bun” or sometimes said like the “e” in “yet”, **-ei**: “ei” as in “eight”
4. **-i**: “ee” as in the Spanish “i”, **-ia**: “yah”, It’s important to emphasize the “aah” sound at the end of this final, imagine you are at the dentist saying “aaah”. **-ie**: “ye” as in “yet”, **-iu**: “yo”, originally, this final was spelled –iou, then later the “o” was dropped. **-iao**: “yow”, but softer, **-ian**: “yen”, the “a” in this final sounds like the “e” in yet.
5. **-o**: like the “o” in “soft”. Keep your lips open when saying the end of this sound. **-ou**: “oh”, You should close your lips at the end of saying this sound.
6. **-u**: “oo” as in choose, but sounds more hollow. Imagine that your mouth is full of marbles while saying it. **-ua**: “wah”, It’s very important to emphasize the “aah” sound at the end of this final, like you are at the dentist. **-ui**: “way”, this final originally was spelled “uei”, then the “e” was dropped. **-un**: “wun”, **-uo**: “oor” as a New Yorker would say “door”, **-uai**: “why”.
7. **-ü - üe - üan - ün**
8. **-an**: “Anne” like a British person would say it. This “a” is very different than English “a”s. Listen carefully to how Chinese people pronounce this sound.

9. **-en**: “un” as in “bun”, but softer. **-in**: “ine” as in “machine”. (The “n” in “-an”, “-en”, and “-in” is said with the tip of your tongue touching the back of your front teeth. So, it sounds softer than an English “n”.

Sometimes, it’s hard to even hear a Chinese person say “n” because it is so soft.)

10. **-ang**: “ahng”, this has a long “aaah” sound in it, like you are at the dentist. Try saying the word “long” with a big smile. Then you will hear the “-ang” sound.

**-eng**: “ung” as in “lung”. **-ing**: “ing” as in “laughing”, but softer. Chinese people don’t say the “ing” as hard as Americans do. Sometimes, it sounds so soft it is hard to hear them say it.

**-ong**: “ohng”, Listen carefully to how Chinese people say this sound.

It is nasal and different from English. It includes a long “oh” sound.

11. **-iang**: “yahng”, again emphasize the “aah” to sound like you are at the dentist.

**-iong**: “yohng” just like “-ong” but it starts with a “y” sound.

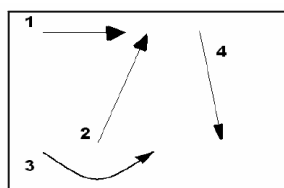
12. **-uan**: “wan” as in “wand” (the “n” is said with the tongue at the

front of the mouth, touching the front teeth), **-uang**: “wahng”, again, remember being at the dentist... “aaah”!

### Pinyin Sound Chart - Mandarin Chinese

Initials	*	b	p	m	f	d	t	n	l	g	k	h	j	q	x	zh	ch	sh	r	z	c	s
Finals		ㄅ	ㄆ	ㄇ	ㄈ	ㄉ	ㄊ	ㄋ	ㄌ	ㄍ	ㄎ	ㄏ	ㄐ	ㄑ	ㄒ	ㄓ	ㄔ	ㄕ	ㄖ	ㄗ	ㄘ	ㄙ
a	ㄚ	ba	pa	ma	fa	da	ta	na	la	ga	ka	ha				zha	cha	sha	ra	za	ca	sa
e	ㄜ					de	te	ne	le	ge	ke	he				zhe	che	she	re	ze	ce	se
ai	ㄞ	bai	pai	mai		dai	tai	nai	lai	gai	kai	hai				zhai	chai	shai		zai	cai	sai
ei	ㄟ		pei	mei	fei	dei		nei	lei	gei		hei						shai				
ao	ㄠ	ao	pao	mao		dao	tao	nao	lao	gao	kao	hao				zhao	chao	shao	rao	zao	cao	sao
ou	ㄡ	ou	pou	mou	fou	dou	tou	nou	lou	gou	kou	hou				zhou	chou	shou	rou	zou	cou	sou
an	ㄢ	an	ban	pan	fan	dan	tan	nan	lan	gan	kan	han				zhan	chan	shan	ran	zan	can	san
en	ㄣ	en	ben	pen	fen	den		nen		gen	ken	hen				zhen	chen	shen	ren	zen	cen	sen
ang	ㄤ	ang	bang	pang	mang	fang	dang	tang	lang	gang	kang	hang				zhang	chang	shang	rang	zang	cang	sang
eng	ㄥ		beng	peng	meng	feng	deng	teng	leng	geng	keng	heng				zheng	cheng	sheng	reng	zeng	ceng	seng
ong	ㄨㄥ					dong	tong	nong	long	gong	kong	hong				zhong	chong		rong	zong	cong	song
er	ㄦ	er																				
i	ㄧ	yi	bi	pi	mi	di	ti	ni	li				ji	qi	xi							
ia	ㄧㄚ	ya							lia				jia	qia	xia							
ie	ㄧㄝ	ye	bie	pie	mie	die	tie	nie	lie				jie	qie	xie							
iao	ㄧㄠ	yao	biao	piao	miao	diao	tiao	niao	liao				jiao	qiao	xiao							
iou	ㄧㄡ	you			miou	diu		niu	liu				jiu	qiu	xiu							
ian	ㄧㄢ	yan	bian	pian	mian	dian	tian	nian	lian				jian	qian	xian							
in	ㄧㄣ	yin	bin	pin	min			nin	lin				jin	qin	xin							
iang	ㄧㄤ	yang						niang	liang				jiang	qiang	xiang							
ing	ㄧㄥ	ying	bing	ping	ming	ding	ting	ning	ling				jing	qing	xing							
iong	ㄩㄥ	yong											jiong	qiong	xiong							
u	ㄨ	wu	bu	pu	mu	fu	du	tu	nu	lu	gu	ku	hu			zhu	chu	shu	ru	zu	cu	su
ua	ㄨㄚ	wa							lua	gua	kua	hua				zhua	chua	shua				
uo	ㄨㄛ	wo	bo	po	mo	fo	duo	tuo	nuo	luo	guo	kuo	huo			zhuo	chuo	shuo	ruo	zuo	cuo	suo
uai	ㄨㄞ	wai								guai	kuai	huai				zhuai	chuai	shuai				
uei	ㄨㄟ	wei					dui	tui		gui	kui	hui				zhuai	chui	shui	ruai	zui	cui	sui
uan	ㄨㄢ	wan				duan	tuan	nuan	luan	guan	kuan	huan				zhuai	chuan	shuan	ruan	zuan	cuan	suan
un	ㄨㄣ	wen				dun	tun		lun	gun	kun	hun				zhun	chun	shun	run	zun	cun	sun
uang	ㄨㄤ	wang								guang	kuang	huang				zhuang	chuang	shuang				
ueng	ㄨㄥ	weng																				
ü	ㄩ	yu						nü	lǘ				ju	qu	xu							
üe	ㄩㄝ	yue						nǚe	lǚe				jue	que	xue							
üan	ㄩㄢ	yuan							lǚan				juan	quan	xuan							
ün	ㄩㄣ	yun											jun	qun	xun							

## Tones



*First tone is short, high, and does not waver.*  
*Second tone starts at the middle to low range and sharply goes higher.*  
*Third tone curves, but always stays as low as you can go.*  
*Fourth tone starts high and sharply goes low.*  
*"Fifth" tone has no special emphasis- it is short and light.*

## Bi Hua — Strokes

Basic Stroke	Writing Rule	Chinese Name	Example
	A simple dot	diǎn 点	主
	Horizontal stroke left to right	héng 横	王
	Vertical stroke top to bottom	shù 竖	十
	Downward stroke to the left top-right to bottom-left	piě 撇	人
	Downward stroke to the right top-left to bottom-right	nè 捺	友
	Upward stroke to the right bottom-left to top-right	dī 提	地
	Horizontal stroke with a hook	héng gōu 横 钩	买
	Vertical stroke with a hook	shù gōu 竖 钩	小
	Slant stroke with a hook	xié gōu 斜 钩	我
	Horizontal stroke with a downward turn left to right, then downward	héng shé 横 折	国
	Vertical stroke with a horizontal turn to the right from the top downward, then horizontally to the right	shù shé 竖 折	它