

# Pin Yin - Pronunciation-II



## 汉语的音节 Chinese Syllables

汉语的音节一般由声母、韵母、声调三部分组成。一般来说，一个汉字对应一个音节。汉语的一个音节可以没有声母，但是一定要有韵母和声调。

A Chinese syllable is usually made up of an initial, a final and a tone. Generally speaking, one Chinese character corresponds to one syllable. A Chinese syllable can have an initial, but must have a final and a tone.

汉语的音节 Syllable	声母 Initial	韵母 Final	声调 Tone
māo (猫, cat)	m	ao	ˉ
yú (鱼, fish)		ü	ˊ
jiě (姐, elder sister)	j	ie	ˇ
èr (二, two)		er	ˋ

**note:** When *i* or *ü* acts as a syllable by itself, *y* is added before it, with the two dots on the top of *ü* being removed; when *u* acts as a syllable by itself, *w* is added before it.



yī



wǔ



yú



ěr



bǐ



māo



dǎo



huā



jī



qī



xié



xuě



kāfēi



kělè



kǎoyā



huǒguō



dìtú



fēijī



máobǐ



ěrjī

## 两个三声音节的连读变调 Tone Sandhi: 3<sup>rd</sup> tone + 3<sup>rd</sup> tone

当两个第三声音节连读时，第一个音节变为第二声，3 + 3 变为 2 + 3。比如“nǐ (你)” + “hǎo (好)” 变为 “ní hǎo”。但是注音时，要标原调。

When two third-tone syllables are read in sequence, the first syllable turns into the second tone, i.e., the 3+3 sequence becomes a 2+3 one. For example, “nǐ (你)” + “hǎo (好)” is read “ní hǎo”. However, when put in the written form, the original tone is kept.

✓	+	✓	→	/	+	✓
nǐ (你)		hǎo (好)		ní		hǎo
kě (可)		yǐ (以)		ké		yǐ
fǔ (辅)		dǎo (导)		fú		dǎo

## 汉语的轻声 The Neutral Tone

汉语中除了四声以外，还有一个读得又短又轻的声调，叫作“轻声”。  
如：

Apart from the four tones mentioned previously, there is another tone in Chinese, which is short and light, known as “the neutral tone”. For example:



māma  
妈妈



yéye  
爷爷

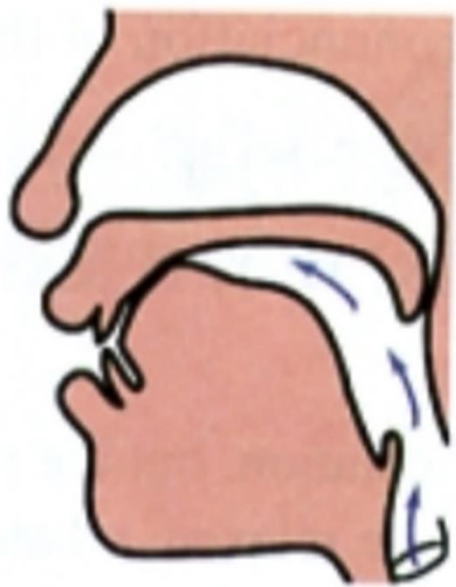


nǎinai  
奶奶

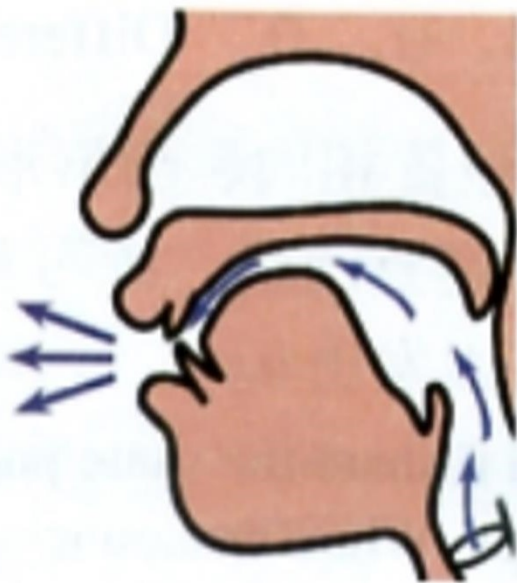


bàba  
爸爸

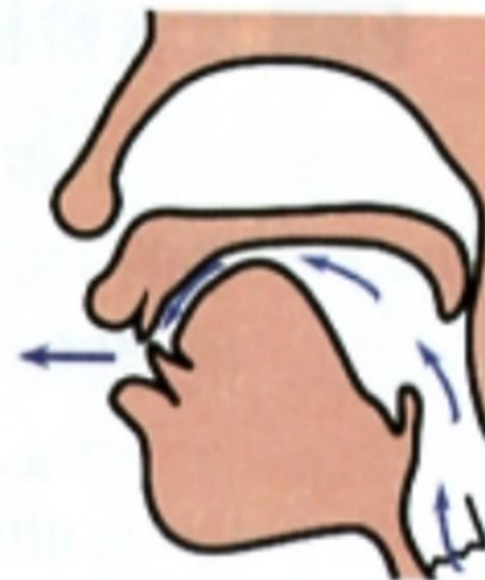
*j*, *q* and *x* are known as coronals. The surface of the tongue touches the hard palate when pronouncing *j* and *q*. While *q* brings out a strong airflow, *j* doesn't. When *x* is pronounced, the surface of the tongue approaches the hard palate without reaching it, leaving a gap in between.



*j*



*q*



*x*

*z*, *c* and *s* are dentals. When pronouncing *z* and *c*, the front part of the tongue touches the inner surface of the upper teeth and then immediately parts with it, forming a gap in between. *z* is pronounced with no strong airflow, while *c* comes with an obvious airflow. When pronouncing *s*, the front part of the tongue tip stays away from the inner surface of the upper teeth all along, leaving a gap for the airflow to get through.



*z*



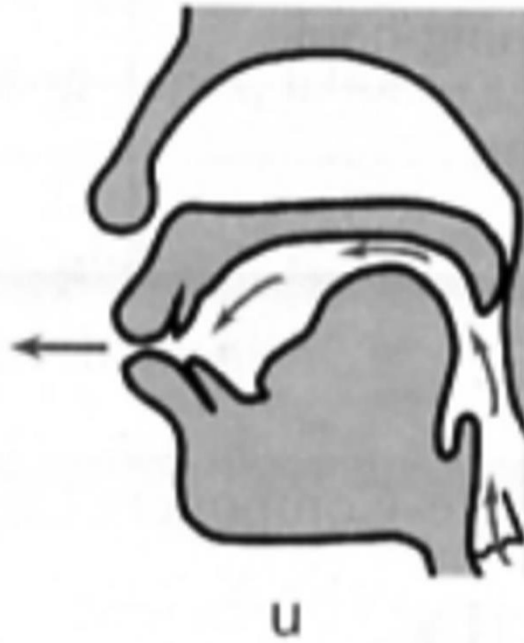
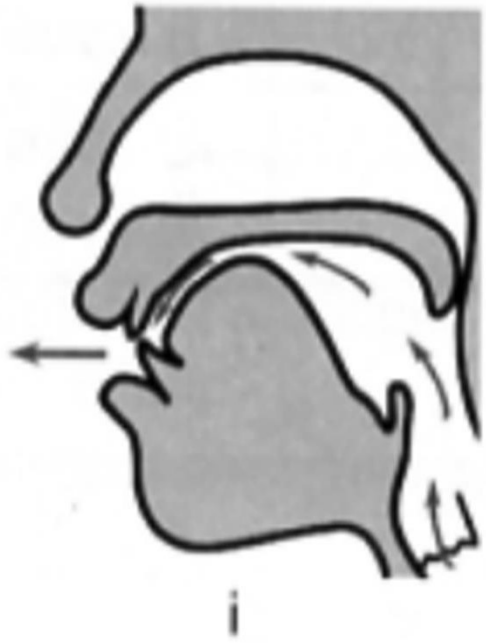
*c*



*s*



Both  $u$  and  $\ddot{u}$  are pronounced with rounded lips. When saying  $\ddot{u}$ , the tongue is in a front position, with the tip pressing the inner surface of the lower teeth; when saying  $u$ , the tongue is in a back position, with the tip staying away from the inner surface of the lower teeth, and the tongue should be held backwards to pronounce the sound right.



## “不”的变调 Tone Sandhi of “不 (bù)” 03-6

### 1) “不”在第一、二、三声音节前不变调

When “不” is followed by a syllable in the first, second or third tone, its tone doesn't change.

bù chī	bù xíng	bù hǎo	bù hē	bù néng	bù xiǎng
to not eat	not OK	not good	to not drink	can't	don't want

### 2) “不”在第四声音节前变成第二声

When “不” is followed by a syllable in the fourth tone, it changes into the second tone.


bú huì	bú shì	bú kàn
to be unable to	to be not	to not look

拼音规则 (2) : 单韵母 ü 和 ü 开头的韵母跟 j、q、x 相拼的规则

Rules of Pinyin (2): ü or finals led by ü with j, q, x

ü 和 ü 开头的韵母跟声母 j、q、x 相拼的时候，ü 上两点要省略，如写成 ju、qu、xu；但是跟声母 l、n 相拼的时候，仍然要写成 lü、nü。

When *ü* or a final beginning with *ü* follows *j*, *q* or *x*, the two dots on the top of *ü* should be removed, for example, *ju*, *qu*, *xu*. However, if the initial is *l* or *n*, the form is *lü* and *nü* respectively.

听录音并跟读，注意 ü 的拼写与实际发音  03-7

Listen to the recording and read after it. Pay attention to the form and pronunciation of *ü*.

ü	üe	üan	ün
ju	jue	juan	jun
qu	que	quan	qun
xu	xue	xuan	xun

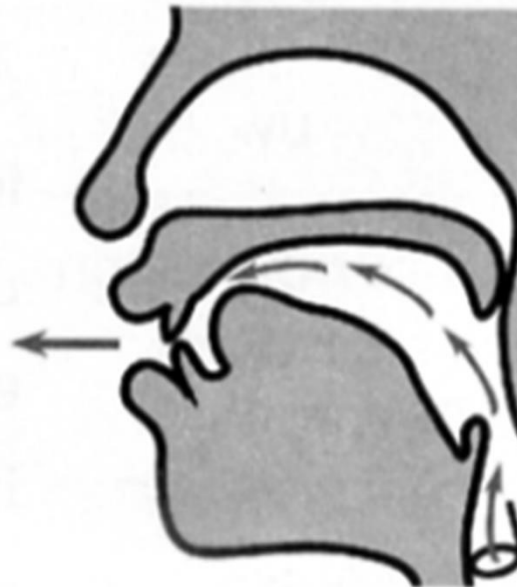
*zh*, *ch*, *sh* and *r* are a series of cacuminals, which are pronounced with the tongue tip turned-up and coordinating with the front part of the hard palate. When saying *zh* and *ch* the tongue tip first touches the hard palate and then opens a gap to let the air flow. *ch* comes with a much stronger airflow, but *zh* doesn't. When saying *sh*, the tongue tip doesn't touch the hard palate, leaving a gap all along. Different from *sh*, *r* is pronounced with the vocal cords vibrating.



zh



ch




sh



r

When saying the alveolar nasal *n* [n], the tongue tip should press the upper alveolar ridge; when saying the velar nasal *ng* [ŋ], the back part of the tongue forms an arch and the root of the tongue moves back and presses the soft palate. Compared with *n* [n], which is pronounced with the upper and lower teeth close to each other, *ng* [ŋ] is pronounced with the mouth more wide-open.



的变调 Tone Sandhi of “一 (yī)”  04-6

“一”在第一、二、三声音节前变成第四声

When “一” is followed by a syllable in the first, second or third tone, it changes into the fourth tone.

yì zhāng  
one sheet/piece

yì tiáo  
one (long) piece

yì zhǒng  
one type

“一”在第四声音节前变成第二声

When “一” is followed by a syllable in the fourth, it changes into the second tone.

yídìng  
sure, certainly

yí kuài  
one piece

“一”单用或表示数字时不变调

When “一” is used alone or in a number, its tone doesn't change.

dì yī  
first

yī èr sān  
one, two, three

xīngqī yī  
Monday

shíyī  
eleven

bǎifēnzhī yī  
one percent

### Rules of Pinyin (3): use of y and w

以 i、u、ü 开头的韵母如果前面没有声母，在拼写时需要使用 y 或 w，具体情况如下：

If a final beginning with *i*, *u* or *ü* has no initial before it, *y* or *w* is used in the written form.  
See the following table for details:

	韵母 Final	写法 Written Form
Beginning with <i>i</i>	i, in, ing	yi, yin, ying
	ia, ie, iao, ian, iang, iong	ya, ye, yao, yan, yang, yong
	iu	you
Beginning with <i>u</i>	u	wu
	ua, uo, uai, uan, uang, ueng	wa, wo, wai, wan, wang, weng
	ui, un	wei, wen
Beginning with <i>ü</i>	ü, üe, üan, ün	yu, yue, yuan, yun



