

C H I N E S E

Speak Chinese
(Pinyin Edition)

By
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PART I

SOUNDS IN CHINESE

The Pinyin system of romanization was officially adopted in 1958 by the People's Republic of China, which uses it for 1) teaching Mandarin pronunciation to children, minority groups, and foreigners; 2) a phonetic system in their own dictionaries; 3) representing names and placenames in the news. The People's Republic of China hopes that someday Pinyin may replace characters altogether.

Chinese Sounds with Close Counterparts in English

Many sounds in Mandarin Chinese are for practical purposes identical with their English counterparts. But in English some letters - particularly the vowels - have more than one value. We must therefore determine which of the values given to a certain letter in English is to be used when recording spoken Chinese.

The following vowels and vowel combinations present little or no problem:

a	as in <u>father</u>
i	as in <u>machine</u> (the symbol <u>i</u> is also used after certain initials to represent the so-called "zero" final. See p.)
e	as in <u>her</u> ; but after <u>y</u> as in <u>yet</u>
o	as in <u>worn</u>
u	as in <u>super</u> (<u>oo</u> not <u>iu</u>)
ai	as in <u>aisle</u>
ei	as in <u>eight</u>
ou	as in <u>boulder</u>
ao	as in <u>cow</u>

The following initial consonants have the same value in Chinese as in English:

m-, n-, l-, f-, s-, w-, y-

Final Consonants

Mandarin Chinese, the present-day standard for the whole country, uses very few final consonants: only -n and -ng and occasionally -r. The value of the preceding vowel is sometimes modified by these endings:

-an has a value between the o in John and the a in an; but -a and -ang are pronounced as in father.

-in and -ing follow the English sin and sing, but the simple -i is pronounced as machine.

-ian is pronounced between yen and the yan in Yankee.

Aspirate & Unaspirate Pairs: p- and b-; t- and d-; k- and g-; and the h- sound

The initial sounds p-, t-, and k- are aspirated as in English, but with a stronger puff of breath. Similarly the h- sound is rougher, more like the German h-.

The initial sounds b-, d-, and g- are unaspirate, do not have this puff of air, and are not voiced.

Consequently the distinction between these pairs is not the same as in the English:

pate	bate
tate	date
kate	gate

The unaspirate sounds in Chinese closely approximate the voiceless sounds in English when preceded by s- as in:

(s)pate	Sounds like the Chinese: bei
(s)tate	" dei
(s)kate	" gei

Thus the Chinese pairs are distinguished by the presence or absence of the puff of air.

Hissing Sounds: s-, x-, sh-

In English we have the sounds s- and sh-. In Chinese there is a third hissing sound lying between these two, which we write as x-. It may be immediately followed only by -i or -u (the German umlaut sound U). Additional vowels may be added, giving us these possible syllables:

<u>s-</u>	<u>x-</u>	<u>sh-</u>
sa	xi	sha
se	xu	she
su	xia	shu
sai	xie	shai
sei	xiu	shei
sou	xue	shou

To make this x- sound, try to isolate the hissing sound as it appears in English in the juncture between two words:

<u>miss you</u>	<u>less yet</u>
<u>bless ya</u>	<u>less yarn</u>
<u>less yoke</u>	

The Sounds: z- and c-

Another aspirate and unaspirate pair consists of c- and z-, which occur in English but not as initials. Look for them between words, as in:

<u>dad's high</u>	<u>it's high</u>
<u>dad's home</u>	<u>let's hope</u>
<u>dad's hay</u>	<u>it's hay</u>

These examples give close approximations of the Chinese syllables zai and cai, zou and cou.

Retroflex Sounds: r-, zh-, ch-, sh-

We have noted that the Chinese sh- is rougher than the English, an effect produced by making the tip of the tongue touch the roof of the mouth behind the ridge at the base of the teeth - farther back than in English. Apply the same procedure to zh-, ch-, and r-.

The Chinese r- is not like the English r-; nor does it have the Scottish burr nor the French guttural sound. Above all, don't trill it: follow carefully the instructions for the position of the tongue given above.

The Sounds: j- and q-

The sounds j- and q- occur only before the vowel sounds -i and -ü. They sound similar to English "j- and ch-", but with the tongue more forward. The position of the tongue is similar to the one you just learned for Chinese x-.

ji	ju	jia	jie	jiu	jiao
qi	qu	qia	qie	qiu	qiao

"Zero" Final Sounds

There are two groups of final sounds in Chinese for which it is difficult to find even an approximate equivalent in English.

The sounds s-, c-, and z- are used as complete syllables - that is, without a recognizable vowel after them. Whatever sound there may be is represented by the letter i, giving the syllables si, ci, and zi. Place the fore part of the tongue closer to the roof of your mouth, tense your muscles, and draw out the sound.

Similarly, the retroflex sounds r-, zh-, ch-, and sh- may also stand as complete syllables. The unrecognizable vowel sounds after these initials, then, are also represented by i. Thus we have ri, shi, chi, and zhi. All four of these sounds are pronounced with the tongue in the position described above. The last four differ chiefly in the degree of control exercised over the air escaping between the teeth. Zhi calls for the tightest position of the tongue.

The Umlaut u

This sound does not exist in English but is common to both German and French. In German it is written ü or ue. First, place your tongue so that you would be pronouncing ee (as in beet), then round your lips as if you were going to say oo (as in loot). The result if you obey orders strictly - is the umlaut u. (The extreme pursed-lip position will not be necessary after you have learned to make the sound.)

In syllables where the letter 'u' follows j-, q-, x-, and y-, it is always an umlaut u. Therefore it is not necessary to write 'ü'. The letter 'u' is sufficient.

For example:	jun	qun	xun	yun
<u>Not:</u>	jün	qün	xün	yün

Umlaut u may also occur after the initials n- and l-, in which case the two dots must be shown. For example:

nü nüe llü llüe

Pronunciation of some vowels changes following umlaut u. For example: in juan, quan, and xuan, the -an is pronounced like the an in ant.

In the examples jue, que, xue, nüe, and llüe, the e is pronounced like the e in yet.

Besides occurring with other sounds such as j-, q-, x-, n-, l-, -an, -e, and -n, umlaut u can occur by itself, in which case it is spelled "yu".

PART II

THE FOUR TONES OF STANDARD CHINESE

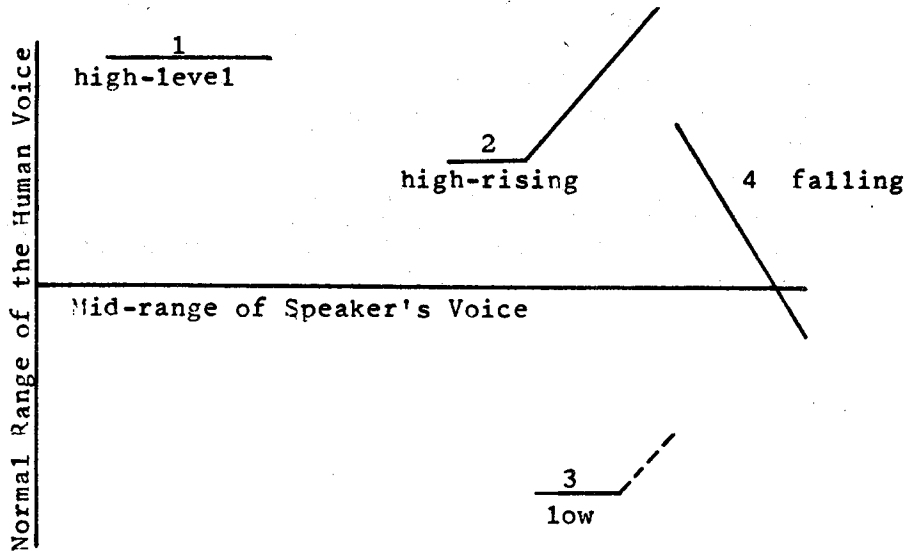
Tones - In learning to speak Chinese the initial problems seem more difficult than they really are. This is particularly true of pronunciation. As you have seen, the Chinese have very few sounds which cannot be found in the English language. One of the chief differences between the two languages is the characteristic tone, or movement of pitch, attached to each syllable of Chinese. For instance, in English, the word 'fan' is intelligible whether spoken with a rising inflection as in the question 'Do you have a fan?', or with a falling inflection in the statement 'Let me use your fan.' In Chinese the word 'fan' pronounced with a rising inflection means "to be bored, fed up"; with a falling inflection it means "food" or "cooked rice". A Chinese word or syllable that will convey a certain meaning when pronounced with a certain tone will yield either a different meaning or no meaning at all if pronounced with a different tone.

In the Peking dialect there are four tones. These tones vary relative to the range of the speaker's voice. They maintain their distinctive characteristics whether enunciated by a soprano voice or a bass voice. In combinations of syllables, the tones may vary slightly but are related to the tone which each syllable has in isolation. The four tones are as follows:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Example</u>
1	high and level	-	gāo
2	high and rising	ˊ	máng
3	(a) by itself or at the end of a phrase, low and rising	ˇ	hǎo
	(b) before another syllable with third tone - the syllable is pronounced in the second tone		hěn hǎo hén hǎo
	(c) before syllables other than third tone - low with no rise		nǐ gāo nǐ máng nǐ lèi
4	falling from high to low		lèi

These may be placed on a diagram to indicate the relative position and pattern of the tones with relation to the middle range of the speaker's voice.

(See diagram on the following page)



For illustration of the meaning differences which accompany change of tone let us take the simple syllable ma, which may be pronounced in all four of the tones and with the following differences in meaning:

		<u>Means</u>
<u>mā</u>	pronounced in the high level first tone	mama
<u>má</u>	pronounced high and with a rising inflection (Put a little jerk in that rise)	hemp
<u>mǎ</u>	is at the bottom of your range and may rise slightly	horse
<u>mà</u>	snap it out as if you were giving orders, and with a short fall.	to curse

In the written language, meaning distinctions are clear because the written characters are different. In the spoken language you have only the correct tone and the setting of the word in the sentence to guide your comprehension.

How important these tonal differences are is evident from the two common words: mǎi meaning "buy" and mài meaning "sell".

Tonal Modifications - The first and second tone (high-level and high-rising) under certain conditions may alter the pronunciation of ou, iu, ui, and iao.

- (1) when y appears initially the ou is pronounced like the u in super. The Chinese syllable you pronounced with the first and second tones is like the English word you, while pronounced with the third and fourth tones it is like the yeo in yeoman.

- (2) when iu appears after an initial, the iu is pronounced like the English you if in the first or second tone, or as the English yeoman if in the third or fourth tone.
- (3) when ui appears after an initial, the ui is pronounced like the English do we, spoken rather quickly, in the first or second tone.
- (4) when iao appears after an initial, the iao is pronounced with a sound between the eo in yeoman and the eo in meow, in the first and second tones. In the third and fourth tones, it tends more toward the eo in meow.

PART III

PRONUNCIATION EXERCISES

The exercises which follow are aimed at sharpening the distinction between sounds easily confused in normal speech. Practice them in two ways: (1) pronounce them so as to make a clear distinction; (2) distinguish the sound when uttered by someone else. Sometimes the latter is harder than the former.

1. INITIALS: p- and b-, t- and d-, k- and g-

1.1 In the following practice make the initial p-, t-, or k- sound more explosive:

pā	tā	bā	pā
hā	kā	gā	kā
pà	tà	dà	tà
hà	pá	dǎ	tǎ
hǎ	tǎ	gá	hǎ
pēi	hēi	bēi	hēi
pái	tái	bái	pái
hòu	tòu	hòu	dòu
pǎo	hǎo	bǎo	gǎo

2. INITIALS: z- and c-

2.1 Contrast the initial sounds z- and c-:

zán	cán
zǎo	cǎo
zài	cài
zū	cū
zòu	còu

2.2 Distinguish z- and c- from other consonant sounds with which they are easily confused:

tā	cā
tàn	cán
tóng	cóng
dá	zá
dū	zū
dǒu	zǒu
sā	cā
sù	cù
sǎo	cǎo

3. INITIALS: sh-, zh-, ch-, r-

3.1 Practice:

shù	zhù	chù	rù
shú	zhú	chú	rú
shǔ	zhǔ	chǔ	rǔ
shū	zhū	chū	rū

3.2 Contrast these paired syllables:

chā	zhā	shā	chā
chǎng	zhǎng	shǎng	rǎng
chōu	shōu	zhū	chū
zá	zhá	chá	shá
sān	shān	sāng	shāng
zhǎng	rǎng	shǎng	chǎng
sǎo	shǎo	cǎo	zǎo

4. INITIALS: x-, j-, q-

4.1 Practice these for contrast:

sā	xiā	shā	xiā
sǎo	xiǎo	shàng	xiàng
zǎo	jiào	zhào	jiào
zāng	jiāng	zhā	jiā
cǎo	qiāo	chǎo	qiào
cā	qiā	chǎng	qiáng

4.2 Here is a review drill:

sān	cān
sǎo	cǎo
shàng	chàng
shǎo	chǎo
xiǎo	qiào
xiǎng	qiáng

5. FINALS: -iu, -ian, -ie

5.1 Contrast these syllables

dū	diū	yào	yòu
lú	liú	jiǎo	jiǔ
nú	niú	diào	diū
lǔ	liǔ	liào	liú

5.2 Note the tightness of the i sound and the difference in quality of a when i appears before it.

bīn	biān	lán	lián
mīn	mián	bān	biān
lǐn	liǎn	dǎn	diǎn
chìn	qiàn	màn	miàn

5.3 Note the difference in the value of u depending on the tone.

liǔ	liù
jiǔ	jiù
xiù	xiū

5.4 Contrast -i with -ie and -ia

xī	xiē	xiā
jǐ	jiē	jiǎ
qì	qiè	qià
xú	xué	

6. THE SOUND e:

6.1 Contrast drill

	ā zhà sǎ lá	ē zhè sě lé	yē jiè xiě lié
6.2	èn bēn shěn bèn	àn bān shǎn hàn	àng bāng shǎng hàng
6.3	wèn wén wén wēn	bèn pén hěn sēn	dùn tún hǔn sūn
6.4	nèn gēn chěn shén	nèng gēng chéng shéng	--- gūn chún shún
6.5	luàn suān chuán guǎn	lùn sūn chún gūn	

7. THE SOUND o/uo:

In the cases of the initials b-, p-, m-, and f- only, the uo final is not used; instead the u is dropped and only -o is used. In all other cases the -uo final is used. Pronunciation is the same in both cases.

7.1 Contrast drill

wā	wō	ē
là	luò	lè
guà	guò	--
shuǎ	shuǒ	--
---	ruò	rè
huá	huó	hé

7.2 Contrasts between -u and -o/-uo and -ou:

fú	fó	fóu
dū	duō	dōu
shū	shuō	shòu
gù	guò	gòu

8. "ZERO" FINAL: s-, z-, c-, zh-, ch-, sh-, and r-

The syllables above end with a final which we write with the letter i. This final occurs only after the initials s-, z-, and c-.

8.1 Contrasts between -u, "zero final"-i, and -e:

zǔ	zì	zé
sù	sì	sè
cù	cì	cè

8.2 Contrasts between -e and retroflex -i:

shé	shí	shǐ	shé
zhé	zhí	zhǐ	zhé
chē	chī	chǐ	chē
rè	rì	rǐ	rè

9. FINAL: Umlauted ü (This is the umlaut sound common in French and German)

As mentioned in Part I, only certain initials may precede the umlaut u. They are j-, q-, x-, l-, and n-. If no initial is voiced, the unspoken initial will be written with a y. Although the tone may differ, these syllables are:

yu	yue	yuan	yun
ju	jue	juan	jun
qu	que	quan	qun
xu	xue	xuan	xun
lü	lüe		
nü	nüe		

(Note that ü written with the two dots appears only in lü, lüe, nü, and nüe)

9.1 Our exercises contrast the umlaut ü with the sounds most easily confused with it. First -i and umlaut ü:

yǐ	yǔ
xī	xǔ
qì	qǔ
nì	nǔ

9.2 Contrasts between -iu and umlaut ü:

jiǔ	jǔ
liù	lǔ
niǔ	nǔ

9.3 In the next pairs the initials differ too:

zū	jū
zhù	jù
chù	qù

10. FINALS: -ün, -üe, -üan

yùn	yuè	yuàn
jūn	juè	juān
qún	qué	quán
xún	xué	xuán

10.1 Contrasts between -in and -ün:

yīn	yūn
jīn	jūn
chīn	qūn
xīn	xūn

10.2 Contrasts between -an, -ian, and -üan:

ān	yān	yuān
sàn	xiàn	xuān
chǎn	qiǎn	quǎn
zhán	jián	juán

10.3 Contrasts between -un and -ün:

zhūn	jūn
shùn	xùn
chún	qún

11. ADDITIONAL DRILLS

11.1 chi, zhi, shi: (retroflex -i)

chíle	shíge	shíbēn
shígēn	yìzhí	hǎochī
chī fàn	chīcài	chī ròu
dōng shì	shílì	shíshì
héshì	bái zhǐ	báo zhǐ
chēn zhǐ	chī jǐ	chī táng
zhìzào pǐn	zhìzào chǎng	lǐbàirì
kǔguā hǎochī	tā déi chīkǔ	tā xiǎng chī ròu

11.2 si, zi and toneless zi:

Zhōngguó zì	sìge	sìběn
dǎ zì	zìjǐ	dǎzìjǐ
fángzi	yìzi	yìzi
zhuōzi	kuàizi	wūzi
dāozì	wǒde zhuōzi	chāzi
nǐde wūzi	nǐmende zhuōzi	wǒmende wūzi
tāmende yìzi	wūzilíde zhōng	tāde yìzi

12. GENERAL DRILLS - While drilling the following phrases two things should be kept in mind: (i) Note distinctions in sound which might be hard to distinguish if the phrase were said very rapidly; (ii) Note the rhythmic patterns of tone sequence and be sure you get the rhythm of the phrase rather than isolated tones.

dōu gāo	tā gāo	gāo tōng
mǎi	mǎi shū	tā mǎi zhōng
tāmende gāo zhōng	tāmen dōu mǎi	tāmen dōu mǎi zhōng
shūbāo hào hēi	dōnghǎi hēile	kǔguā hǎo
tā bushūfu	tāde shūpù	shāfā bushūfu
wǒ dōu kàn	tā tài lǎo	shéi hěn gāo
fànwǎn	hǎokàn	tài màn
bābái	dàodí	lǎomí
bàngōngfèi	yángguífēi	dōu tónglèi
zuì cōngmíng	zuì lǎoshi	zuì qiǎdang

shàng chuán
dào wǔjīnháng
nuǎnqílú
miànbāofáng
shǒutíxiāng
bié shuō ba
lǚxíngshè
lǎoyumi
gēnjūdi
xīmózhǐ
niúròugānr
ròu zhēn xián
shénme shíhou qù

shàng chuáng
yào wǔjīn mǐ
luàn dītú
dǎ huángláng
méi rén guǎn
děi shuō bā
gōngānjú
bùxínglè
hǎijūnbù
xīngqǐrì
diàndēngpàor
guā tài kǔ
nàme zuò hǎo

shāngchuán
zhǎo wǔjiàn shí
chuān píkù
qízhe qiáng
shuōmíngshū
yě shuō bǎ
wàngyuǎnjìng
kān háizi
yānghuòdiàn
jiàshíyuán
xiězìzhuōr
shuǐ hěn xián
zěnme dōu xíng

PART IV
CHECKLIST OF CHINESE SYLLABLES

The number of elements of a Chinese syllable cannot be higher than three:

1. A final or ending sound
2. An initial or beginning sound
3. A tone or tonal inflection

Finals A final may be a vowel, a consonant, or a combination of vowel-plus-vowel or vowel-plus-consonant. Finals may also constitute complete syllables. The following is a list of finals met in the standard Mandarin Chinese of the capital.

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Example</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
a	as in <u>father</u> , or <u>ma</u> , with mouth wide open	mǎ	horse
an	between <u>o</u> in <u>John</u> and <u>a</u> in <u>an</u> , but closer to <u>o</u>	màn	be slow
ang	like <u>a</u> in <u>father</u> plus <u>ng</u> in <u>song</u>	máng	be busy
ai	as in <u>aisle</u>	mài	sell
ao	as in <u>how</u>	māo	cat
ar	as in <u>ar</u> in <u>car</u>	wár	to play
e	like <u>o</u> in <u>done</u> after <u>y</u> like <u>e</u> in <u>yet</u>	dé	obtain
o	like <u>o</u> in <u>worn</u>	wǒ	I
en	like <u>un</u> in <u>under</u>	kěn	be willing to
eng	like <u>ung</u> in <u>lung</u>	lěng	be cold
ei	as in <u>eight</u>	lèi	be tired
ou	as in <u>low</u>	lóu	building
er	like <u>er</u> in <u>her</u>	èr	two
i	as in <u>machine</u>	pí	skin
in	as in <u>pin</u>	pīn	spell out
ing	as in <u>sing</u>	píng	be level

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Example</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
u	like <u>u</u> in <u>super</u>	wú	cry
ong	like <u>oo</u> in <u>loot</u> plus <u>ng</u> in <u>song</u>	lóng	dragon
umlaut ü	made with tongue in position of <u>i</u> (as in machine) but with lips rounded. Like French <u>ü</u> or German <u>ü</u> .	yú	fish
umlaut ün	sound described above plus an <u>n</u>	yùn	to ship

Initials - An initial may be a single consonant or a consonant cluster.

p	as in <u>pun</u> , but with a strong puff of breath	pén	basin
b	like <u>p</u> in <u>spun</u> , without any breath after it	běn	volume
t	as in <u>tongue</u> , but with a strong puff of breath	téng	ache
d	like <u>t</u> in <u>stung</u> , without any breath after it	dēng	lamp
k	as in <u>cool</u> , but with a strong puff of breath	kū	to cry
g	like <u>c</u> in <u>scoop</u> , without any breath after it	gù	to hire
m	as in <u>month</u>	mén	door
n	as in <u>none</u>	néng	be able to
f	as in <u>fun</u>	fēn	to divide
l	as in <u>lung</u>	lěng	be cold
h	as a strong <u>h</u> sound in <u>hot</u> when said emphatically (like German <u>ch</u> as in <u>ach</u>)	hú	lake
y	as in <u>yet</u>	yě	also
w	as in <u>weigh</u>	wèi	to feed

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Example</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
r	(1) tongue position is like English "r", but with lips <u>spread</u> , not rounded.	rén	man
	(2) pronounced with tongue held in position until tone has been completed.	rì	sun
sh	A "sh" sound made with tongue curled back, (similar to <u>ch</u> , <u>zh-</u> , and <u>r-</u>).	shū	book
		shí	ten
ch	(1) similar to <u>ch</u> in "church" but with tip of tongue curled back as for <u>r</u> in " <u>true</u> "	chū	emerge
	(2) pronounced with tip of tongue held as described in (1) and held there until the tone has been completed.	chī	to eat
zh	like <u>ch</u> above but without a puff of breath.	zhù	to dwell
	(1) tongue position same as in (1) under <u>ch</u> (2) same as in (2) under <u>ch</u>	zhǐ	paper
q	similar to English " <u>ch</u> " but tip of tongue is held against the gum ridge behind the front teeth.	qī qián qù quán	seven money to go altogether
j	same as <u>q</u> , but without a puff of breath	jī jiàn jù jué	chicken cheap sentence consider
x	similar to English " <u>sh</u> " but made with tip of tongue held against the gum ridge behind the front teeth.	xī	west
c	(1) like <u>ts</u> in <u>it's high</u> , but with a strong puff of breath	cài	vegetable
	(2) initial pronounced with tip of tongue held in position until tone has been completed	cà	occasion
z	(1) like dz in <u>cod's eye</u>	zài	again
	(2) same as in (2) under <u>c</u> group	zì	character
s	(1) as in <u>sight</u> (2) same as in (2) under <u>c</u> group	sài	to compete



DÌYÍKÈ - LESSON 1

DESCRIPTIVE SENTENCES

A. Duìhuà - Dialogue

Wáng: Nín hǎo a?	How do you do?
Lǐ: Hǎo. Nín hǎo a?	Fine. How are you?
Wáng: Hěn hǎo.	Very well.
Lǐ: Nǐ máng bumáng?	Are you busy?
Wáng: Bùmáng. Nǐ máng ma?	No, are you?
Lǐ: Wǒ hěn máng.	(Yes), I'm very busy.
Wáng: Nǐ búlèi ma?	Aren't you tired?
Lǐ: Wǒ hěn lèi. Nǐ lèi búlèi?	(Yes), I'm very tired. Are you?
Wáng: Bútài lèi.	Not too tired.

B. Shēngzì - Vocabulary

1. wǒ	PN: I, me
2. nǐ nín	PN: you (singular) (polite form)
3. tā	PN: he, she; him, her
4. wǒmen	PN: we, us
5. nǐmen	PN: you (plural)
6. tāmen	PN: they, them
7. gāo	SV: be tall, high
8. máng	SV: be busy
9. hǎo	SV: be good, well
10. lèi	SV: be tired weary
11. āi	SV: be short (in stature) be low (in elevation)
12. hěn bùhěn hěn bu-	A: very A: not very A: very un-

L. 1

Vocabulary (continued)

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 13. tài | A: too, excessively |
| bútài | A: not too |
| tài bu- | A: decidedly not |
| 14. bù- (bú-) | A: not (prefix to V, SV, A) |
| 15. ma? | P: (interrogative final particle for yes-no questions. Neutral in tone.) |
| 16. a? | P: (interrogative final particle, used when answer is assumed. Neutral in tone.) |
| 17. shéi? | N: who? (question word only, never relative pronoun) |

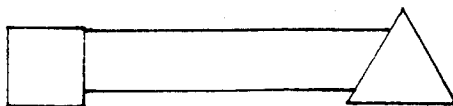
Kèshì Yòngyǔ - Classroom Phrases

Memorize these phrases and use them in class as opportunity offers. Don't try to analyze the sentence structure at this time.

Zǎo!	Good morning!
Zàijiàn!	Goodbye!

C. Jùzi Gòuzào - Sentence Structure

1. SIMPLE DESCRIPTION - The pattern of description consists of a subject followed by a stative verb.



Wǒ
(I)

máng.
(am busy.)

Tā
(He)

búlèi.
(is-not-tired.)

Pattern Drills

To understand the order of the elements which compose a sentence is not necessarily to be able to use it. Nothing can obviate the need for drill. Substitution Tables give a framework for individual drill by helping the student to ring the changes on basic patterns. Make every possible combination within the pattern set. Say the resultant sentences aloud several times.

a. Substitution Table: Statements

N	(neg.)	SV
Wǒ	(bu-)	gāo
Nǐ (nín)		máng
Tā		hǎo
Wǒmen		lèi
Nǐmen		ǎi
Tāmen		

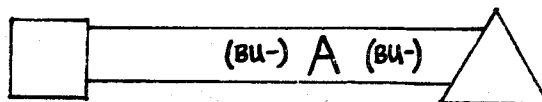
b. Substitution Table: Two-clause Statements (positive-negative)

N	SV,	N	neg-SV
Wǒ	gāo,	tā	bùgāo.
Nǐ (nín)	máng,	wǒ	bùmáng.
Tā	hǎo,	nǐ	bùhǎo.
Wǒmen	lèi,	nǐmen	búlèi.
Nǐmen	ǎi,	tāmen	bùǎi.
Tāmen		wǒmen	

c. Substitution Table: Two-clause Statements (negative-positive)

N	neg-SV,	N	SV
Wǒ	bùgāo,	tāmen	gāo.
Nǐ (nín)	bùmáng,	tā	máng.
Tā	bùhǎo,	nǐ	hǎo.
Wǒmen	búlèi,	nǐmen	lèi.
Nǐmen	bùǎi,	wǒ	ǎi.
Tāmen	bùgāo,	nǐmen	gāo.

2. DESCRIPTIVE STATEMENTS WITH ADVERBIAL MODIFIERS - Adverbs (A) precede verbs. Their function, as in English, is to modify verbs and other adverbs. The negative prefix bù- may be treated as an adverb and be attached to a verb or to an adverb. Hence we must distinguish between bùhěn hǎo 'not very well' and hěn bùhǎo 'very un-well'.



Tā
(She)

hěn gāo.
is very tall.)

Wǒ
(I)

bùhěn máng.
am not very busy.)

Tā
(He)

hěn bùhǎo.
is very bad.)

Wǒ
(I)

bútài ǎi.
am not too short.)

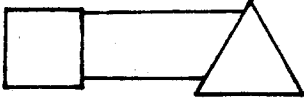
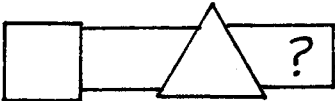
Pattern Drillsa. Substitution Table: Positive Statements

N	A	SV
Wǒ	hěn	gāo.
Nǐ (Nín)	tài	máng.
Tā		hǎo.
Wǒmen		lèi.
Nǐmen		ǎi.
Tāmen		

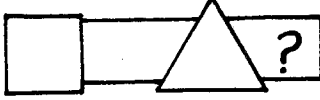
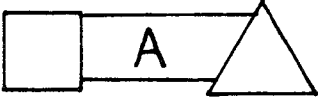
b. Substitution Table: Negative Statements

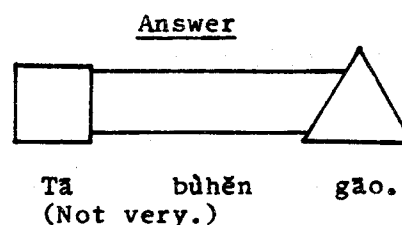
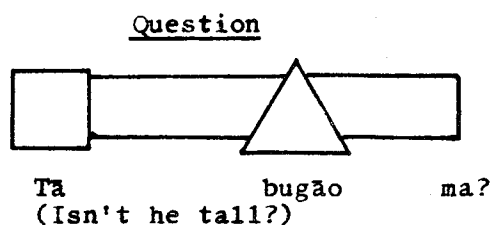
N	neg-A	SV
Wǒ	bùhěn	gāo.
Nǐ (Nín)	bútài	máng.
Tā		hǎo.
Wǒmen		lèi.
Nǐmen		ǎi.
Tāmen		

3. SIMPLE QUESTIONS - Questions to which the answer in English would be yes or no may be formed from any statement by adding the interrogative particle ma. The word order is not changed. The negative form of such a question differs from the positive form only by the use of the negative prefix before the verb.

<u>Statement</u>	<u>Question</u>
 <p>Tā máng. (He is busy.)</p>	 <p>Tā máng ma? (Is he busy?)</p>
<p>Wǒ hěn ǎi. (I am very short.)</p>	<p>Wǒ hěn ǎi ma? (Am I very short?)</p>

In answering questions, the same changes in personal pronouns are necessary as in English.

<u>Question</u>	<u>Answer</u>
 <p>Nǐ lèi ma? (Are you tired?)</p>	 <p>Wǒ hěn lèi. (Yes, I am very tired.)</p>
<p>Nín máng a? (Are you busy?)</p>	<p>(Wǒ) bùmáng. (No, I'm not.)</p>



Pattern Drills

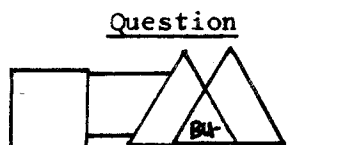
a. Substitution Table: Simple Questions

N	(neg-)	SV	?
Wǒ	(bu-)	gāo	ma?
Nǐ (Nín)		máng	
Tā		hǎo	
Wǒmen		lèi	
Nǐmen		ǎi	
Tāmen			

b. Substitution Table: Modified Questions

N	(neg-)	A	SV	?
Wǒ	(bu-)	hěn	gāo	ma?
Nǐ (Nín)		tài	máng	
Tā			hǎo	
Wǒmen			lèi	
Nǐmen			ǎi	
Tāmen				

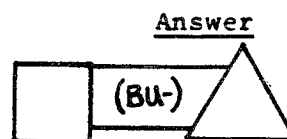
4. CHOICE TYPE QUESTIONS - Coupling the positive and negative forms of a verb poses two alternatives and asks which is the case. The stress falls on the first or positive verb. The interrogative particle ma is not used in a choice type question.



Nín máng bumáng?
(Are you busy?)

Tāmen lèi bulèi?
(Are they tired?)

Tā ǎi buǎi?
(Is he short?)



(Wǒ) bumáng.
(No, I'm not.)

(Tāmen) bùhěn lèi.
(Not very.)

Tā bú tài ǎi.
(Not too short.)

Pattern Drillsa. Substitution Table: Choice Type Questions

Wǒ	gāo bugāo?
Nǐ	máng bumáng?
Nín	hǎo buhǎo?
Tā	lèi bulèi?
Wǒmen	ǎi buǎi?
Nǐmen	
Tāmen	

5. SHORT ANSWERS - Answers to questions calling for yes or no answers are formed by repeating the verb of the question in its positive or negative form. The inclusion of elements other than the verb is optional. In short answers the subject is frequently omitted. Since Chinese has no terms quite corresponding to 'yes' and 'no' in English, assent and dissent are expressed by repetition of the verb. The negative is indicated by prefixing bù- to the verb. E.g.:

<u>Question:</u>	Nǐ máng ma?	Are you busy?
<u>Answers:</u>	Máng.	Yes.
	Bumáng.	No.
	Bùhěn máng.	Not very busy.

<u>Question:</u>	Tā lèi bulèi.	Is she tired?
<u>Answers:</u>	Lèi.	Yes.
	Búlèi.	No.
	Bútài lèi.	Not too tired.

Pattern Drillsa. Substitution Table - Question and Answer: Simple

<u>Question</u>				<u>Answer</u>		
Wǒ	(hěn)	gāo	ma?	Wǒ	(hěn)	gāo.
Nǐ	(tài)	máng		Nǐ	(tài)	máng.
Nín	(bu-)	hǎo		Nín	(bu-)	hǎo.
Tā		lèi		Tā		lèi.
Wǒmen		ǎi		Wǒmen		ǎi.
Nǐmen				Nǐmen		
Tāmen				Tāmen		

b. Substitution Table - Question and Answer: Choice type

Wǒ	gāo bugāo?	
Nǐ	máng bumáng?	
Nín	hǎo buhǎo?	(same as above)
Tā	lèi bulèi?	
Wǒmen	ǎi buǎi?	
Nǐmen		
Tāmen		

Zhù jiě - Notes1. PARTS OF SPEECH

- 1.1 Nouns and Pronouns function essentially like their counterparts in English, except that they are not inflected for case or number. An exception may be found in the addition of -men to the singular pronouns to form plurals. This is limited to the pronouns and a very small number of personal nouns.
- 1.2 Verbs (V) in Chinese are words which may take a negative prefix. Chinese verbs are not inflected as are English verbs. One verb form is used regardless of person, number or tense, giving an effect similar to 'I be, he be, you be, we be' etc. There are several types of verbs, but only one, the stative verb, is introduced in this lesson.
- 1.3 Stative Verbs (SV). Most Chinese verbs fall into one of two categories: those which may be preceded by the adverb hěn 'very' and those which may not. The former are known as STATIVE VERBS because they describe a quality or condition rather than indicate an action. In English this function of describing is performed by an adjective preceded by the verb 'to be'. In Chinese the sense of 'to be' is embedded in the stative verb; hence there is no counterpart of 'to be' needed. E.g.: gāo means not merely 'tall' but 'is tall', and is a complete predicate, as the corresponding adjective in English is not.
- 1.4 Particles (P) are elements which may be added to a word, phrase or sentence to indicate some particular function or aspect. The pluralizing particle -men is added to pronouns and a few nouns denoting persons and is comparable to the English plural endings -s and -es. There are several interrogative particles which may be added to a statement to form a question. Such as ma? and a?
- 1.5 Adverbs, as in English modify verbs and other adverbs. An adverb in Chinese precedes the word it modifies.

2. TONE CHANGES

- 2.1 Tones on bu-. The negative prefix bu- is normally pronounced with the falling tone except when it is immediately followed by another falling tone, in which case it changes to the rising tone. E.g.: bùgāo, bùmáng, bùhǎo, but búlǎi. In rapid speech the tone of bu- is seldom identifiable unless stressed. Hence we shall omit the tone-mark from bu- unless stressed.
- 2.2 Successive Low Tones. When one low tone is immediately followed by another low tone, the former rises to approximate the rising tone. Thus, nǐ hǎo is pronounced approximately as if it were written ní hǎo. When three low tones occur in sequence, there are two possible patterns for pronunciation:

Nǐ hěn hǎo may be pronounced: Ní hén hǎo.
or: Nǐ hén hǎo.

L. 1

2.2 Successive Low Tones (continued)

The first pattern stresses both nǐ and hěn; the second stresses only hěn. If more than three low tones occur in sequence the most common pattern alternates low and rising tones, but this may be modified by a desire to stress some particular word or words.

Tone Change Drills

- a. Repeat the following phrases over and over, building up as much speed as possible:

Tā buǎi, bugāo, bumáng, búlèi.
Nǐ bǔhěn gāo, bǔhěn ǎi.
Nǐmen hěn hǎo; tāmen hěn bǔhǎo.
Nǐ hěn hǎo; wǒ bǔhěn hǎo.

- b. Pyramid Drill on Tones - Start with the basic essentials of a sentence, or even with a single word, and build up the expression by adding words to it.

hǎo
hěn hǎo
Nǐ hěn hǎo
Nǐ hěn hǎo ma?

bǔhǎo
bǔhěn hǎo
Tāmen bǔhěn hǎo
Tāmen bǔhěn hǎo ma?

bǔhǎo
hěn bǔhǎo
Tā hěn bǔhǎo
Tā hěn bǔhǎo ma?

E. Liànxí - Exercises

1. Answer these questions:

Tā máng ma?
Nǐ lèi búlèi?
Tāmen búlèi ma?
Tā tài gāo ma?
Wǒ hěn ǎi ma?

Nǐ hěn lèi ma?
Nǐ hǎo ma?
Nǐmen máng bumáng?
Tāmen búlèi ma?
Nǐmen bǔhěn máng ma?

2. Translate into Chinese:

He is tall.
Am I short?
Are you very tired?
Are they too tall?
We are not too tired?

We are tired.
They aren't busy.
Aren't they busy?
He isn't very well.
Is he tall or isn't he?

DĪÈKÈ - LESSON 2

F U N C T I V E S E N T E N C E SA. Duìhuà - Dialogue

Mǎi Bǐ - Buying a Pen

- | | |
|--|--|
| Wáng: Nǐ mǎi bào ma? | Are you buying a paper? |
| Lǐ: Wǒ bù mǎi bào. | No, I'm not. |
| Wáng: Nǐ bú kàn bào ma? | Don't you read the news-
paper? |
| Lǐ: Bú kàn. Wǒ kàn shū. | No, I read books. |
| Wáng: Nǐ mǎi shū ma? | Are you buying a book? |
| Lǐ: Bù mǎi. Shū tài guǐ. | No, books are too expensive. |
| Nǐ men mài bǐ ma? | Are you selling pens? |
| Wáng: Mài. Nǐ yào Měiguó
bǐ buyào? | Yes. Do you want an
American pen? |
| Lǐ: Měiguó bǐ dōu hǎo kàn ma? | Are all American pens good-
looking? |
| Wáng: Dōu hěn hǎo kàn. | They are all very good-
looking. |
| Lǐ: Guǐ bú guǐ? | Are they expensive? |
| Wáng: Bù dōu guǐ. Zhōngguó bǐ
piányi. | Not all. Chinese pens are
cheaper. |
| Lǐ: Wǒ bú yào wàiguó bǐ; wǒ
yào Zhōngguó bǐ. | I don't want a foreign pen;
I want a Chinese pen, |
| Wáng: Nǐ yào gāngbǐ, yào qiānbǐ,
yào fěnbǐ? | Do you want a pen, a pencil
or a crayon? |
| Lǐ: Wǒ yào gāngbǐ, yě yào
qiānbǐ, bú yào fěnbǐ. | I want a pen and a pencil,
but no crayons. |
| Wáng: Wǒ men yě mài zhōng, yě mài
biǎo. Nǐn yào bú yào? | We sell clocks and watches
too. Do you want any? |
| Lǐ: Wǒ bú yào. | I don't want any. |

B. Shēngzì - Vocabulary

18. shū

N: book

Shū hǎo.
(books are good.)

Wǒ kàn shū.
(I read books.)

19. bào

N: newspaper

Nín kàn bào ma?
(Do you read the newspaper?)

Bào tài guì.
(The paper is too expensive.)

20. bǐ
gāngbǐ
qiānbǐ
fěnbǐ

N: writing instrument

N: (steel) pen

N: lead pencil

N: chalk

Wǒ yào gāngbǐ, bùyào fěnbǐ.
(I want a pen, not a crayon.)

Fěnbǐ piányi; qiānbǐ guì.
(Chalk is cheap; pencils are more expensive.)

21. zhōng

N: clock, timepiece

22. biǎo

N: watch

Wǒ bùyào zhōng; wǒ yào biǎo.
(I don't want a clock; I want a watch.)

23. Zhōngguó

PW: China, Chinese (adj.)

24. Měiguó

PW: America (U.S.A.), American (adj.)

25. wàiguo

PW: foreign land, foreign (adj.)

Wǒ bùyào wàiguo bào; wǒ kàn Zhōngguó bào.
(I don't read foreign papers, I read Chinese papers.)

26. hǎokàn

SV: be good-looking

Měiguó biǎo hěn hǎokàn.
(American watches are very good-looking.)

Wàiguo zhōng bùtài hǎokàn.
(Foreign clocks are not too good-looking.)

27. guì

SV: be expensive

27. guì (continued)

Biǎo dōu guì ma?
(Are all watches expensive?)

Biǎo guì; zhōng buguì.
(Watches are expensive; clocks aren't.)

28. piányi

SV: be inexpensive, cheap

Zhōngguó shū piányi; wàiguó shū guì.
(Chinese books are cheap; foreign books
are expensive.)

29. yào
yào kǎn

V/AV: want, want to
AV-V: want to read

Nǐ yào bǎo ma? Wǒ búyào.
(Do you want a paper? No.)

Nǐ yào kǎn bǎo ma?
(Do you want to read the paper?)

30. mǎi

V: buy

Tā mǎi bumǎi? Mǎi.
(Is he buying it? Yes.)

31. mài

V: sell

Nǐ mài bumài? Búmài.
(Will you sell it? No.)

Wǒ bumǎi shū, wǒ mài shū.
(I don't buy books, I sell them.)

32. kàn

V: look, look at, read

Nǐ kàn! (Look!)

Nǐ kàn tā! (Look at him!)

Tā kàn bǎo. (He reads the paper.)

33. dōu
dōu bù-
budōu

A: all, both; altogether
A: none
A: not all

Wǒmen dōu tài máng.
(We are all too busy.)

Tāmen dōu búlèi.
(None of them are tired.)

Wǒmen budōu mǎi biǎo.
(Not all of us are buying watches.)

Substitution Drill

N		V	modifier	N
wǒ	(bu-)	yào	Zhōngguó	shū
nǐ (nín)		mǎi	Měiguó	bào
tā		mǎi	wàiguó	bǐ
wǒmen		kàn		gāngbǐ
nǐmen		yào mǎi		qiānbǐ
tāmen		yào mǎi		fěnbǐ
		yào kàn		zhōng
				biǎo

2. SIMPLE QUESTIONS in Functionive Sentences occur in a pattern similar to that used in the Descriptive Sentence. (See Lesson 1) It is formed by adding the interrogative particle ma to the end of a statement.

Statement

Tā kàn shū.
(He reads books.)

Tāmen dōu mǎi bǐ.
(They are all buying pens.)

Question

Tā kàn shū ma?
(Does he read books?)

Tāmen dōu mǎi bǐ ma?
(Are they all buying pens?)

Substitution Drill

N	V	N	P?
Wǒ	yào	shū	ma?
NI	mǎi	bào	
Tā	mǎi	bǐ	
Wǒmen	kàn	qiānbǐ	
Nǐmen		gāngbǐ	
Tāmen		fěnbǐ	
		zhōng	
		biǎo	

3. QUESTION WORD QUESTIONS. We found in Lesson 1 that we could slip a question word - shéi? - into the subject position before a stative verb. With functionive verbs there arises the possibility that the question word may be either subject or object. In English we transpose the statement pattern to get the question pattern. In Chinese the same pattern is used for both statement and question. Consequently the question word simply takes the place of whatever word is needed to answer the question. Thus:



Shéi
(Who is buying a pen?)

mǎi

bǐ?

NI
(What are you buying?)

mǎi

shénme?

