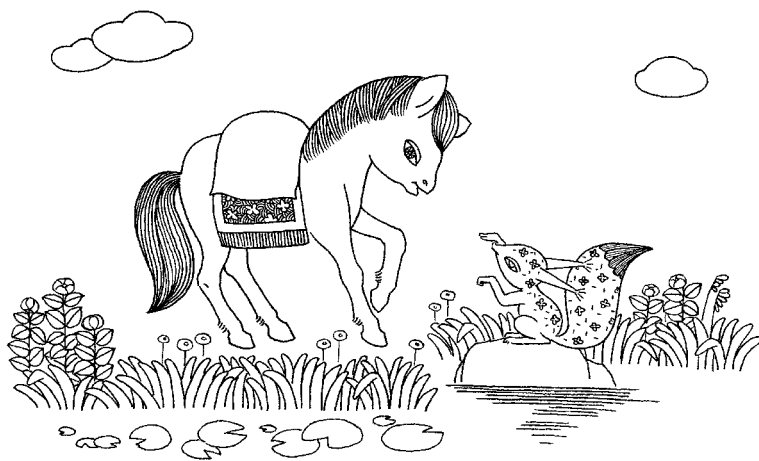


马立平课程

中 文

三年 级

第一单元



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一、A Journey of Teaching Yourself Pinyin — Part One

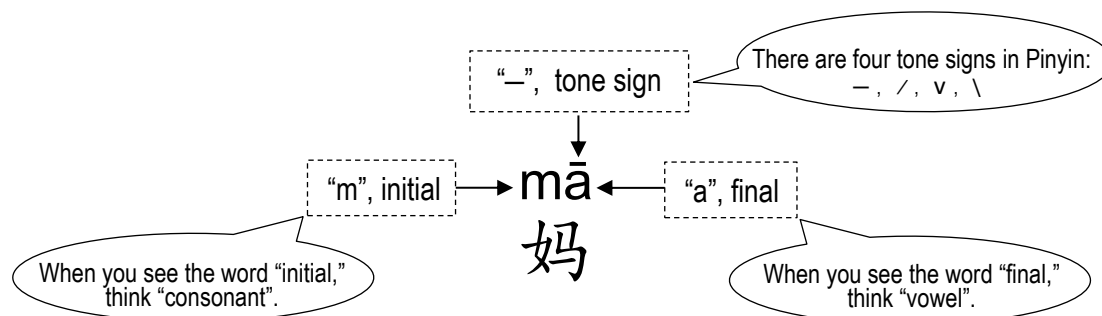
Dear students, in the next four weeks we are going to learn to spell Chinese sounds with letters using Pinyin (拼音). Since we have already learned many Chinese characters, we can teach ourselves. Using some characters we already know, we will be able to figure most of it out!

While many English words have multiple syllables, all Chinese characters only have one syllable. We'll learn how to describe a syllable in Pinyin. We spell words in English and we spell syllables in Pinyin.

Mini-lesson 1: The three parts of a Chinese syllable

Most Chinese syllables are made of three parts:

1) initial (≈ consonant); 2) final (≈ vowel); and 3) tone (the part we don't have in English.)



Some Chinese syllables, such as 阿 (ā) etc., have only two parts – final and tone.

Mini-lesson 2: The tones of Chinese syllables and the simple final a

We have tones in Chinese, unlike in English. In Chinese, there are four normal tones and one special tone. If you carefully study the following five groups of Chinese characters, you will be able to figure out what these tones sound like. You will also see how to pronounce “a” in Pinyin.

mā	bā	lā	tā	→	First tone “—” :	What does it sound like?
妈	巴	拉	他		Final “a” :	What does it sound like?
má	pá	ná	dá	→	Second tone “ / ” :	What does it sound like?
麻	爬	拿	答		Third tone “ ˇ ” :	What does it sound like?
mǎ	bǎ	nǎ	dǎ	→	Fourth tone “ ` ” :	What does it sound like?
骂	怕	那	大		Soft tone (no sign) :	What does it sound like?
ma	ba	la	a	→		
吗	吧	啦	啊			

In English the same vowel may sound different in different words. In Chinese, a simple final always sounds the same with only two exceptions. Through previous study you may have learned that “a” sounds like the “a” in “father.” Please carefully study the following groups of Chinese characters. You’ll see:

- 1) how to pronounce the letters *o*, *e*, *i*, and *u* in Pinyin as simple finals; and
- 2) how to pronounce letters *j*, *q*, and *x* as initials.

Mini-lesson 3: Simple finals *o*, *e*, *i*, *u*; initials *j*, *q*, and *x*

bō 拔 mō 摸 bó 伯 pò 破 → Final “o” :
What does it sound like?

gē 哥 hé 和 kě 可 rè 热 sè 色 → Final “e” :
What does it sound like?

jī 鸡 xī 西 jí 急 qí 奇 nǐ 你 jǐ 几 lì 力 qì 气 → Final “i.”, and the sounds
of *j*, *q*, and *x*:
What do they sound like?

tū 突 tú 图 dú 读 tǔ 土 tù 兔 mù 木 → Final “u” :
What does it sound like?

Mini-lesson 4: Simple finals *ü*

Do you know how to say “fish” in Chinese? Do you know how to say “rain” in Chinese? The sounds of “鱼” and “雨” are the second and third tones of the final “ü.”

ū ú ǔ ù
nǚ lǜ
女 绿

The six simple finals in Pinyin in their four tones

ā á ǎ à	ō ó ǒ ò
ē é ě è	ī í ǐ ì
ū ú ǔ ù	ǖ ǘ ǚ ǜ

* On the keyboard, people usually type “v” when they need to type “ü.”

Mini-lesson 5: Initials *z, c, zh, ch, and sh*

We have seen that in Pinyin the initial letters *j, q, and x* sound very different from the same letters in English. So do five other initials: *z, c, zh, ch, sh*.

z is the initial of characters such as 子, 自, 在, 做。What does it sound like?

c is the initial of characters such as 次, 草, 从, 藏。What does it sound like?

There are three Pinyin initials which are made of two letters. They are *zh, ch* and *sh*:

zh is the initial of characters such as 知, 中, 找, 这。What does it sound like? Can you tell the difference between “zh” and “j”?

ch is the initial of characters such as 吃, 虫, 出, 吹。What does it sound like? Can you tell the difference between “ch” and “q”?

sh is the initial of characters such as 十, 水, 上, 说。What does it sound like? Can you tell the difference between “sh” and “x”?

We don't have to learn or memorize the names of all the Pinyin initials, only those of the eight that sound different from English. Pronounce the following in the first tone:

j (鸡); *q* (七); *x* (西); *z* (as 子 in first tone); *c* (as 次 in first tone);

zh (知); *ch* (吃); *sh* (as 十 in first tone)。

Mini-lesson 6: Two exceptions of pinyin simple finals

Now let's take a look at the two exceptions where the pronunciation of a simple final can change depending on the initial before it. First, please study the following groups of characters, and figure out what the final “i” sounds like when it goes after the initials *z, c, s, r, zh, ch* and *sh*:

zǐ zì zì cì cǐ cí sì sǐ sī rì
子 自 字 次 此 词 四 死 思 日

zhī zhī zhí chī chī chí shí shì shī
只 知 直 吃 翅 池 十 是 诗

As you may have noticed, when “i” comes after *z, c, s, r, zh, ch, and sh*, it doesn't have a sound at all. It is only there to carry the tone sign.

For the second exception, study the following characters, and figure out what the final “u” sounds like when it goes after the initials *j, q, and x*:

jǔ jù qù qù xǔ
举 句 去 趣 许

In fact, the letter “u” that comes after *j, q, and x* is not the real final “u”, but “ü” without the two dots. There are no syllables that sound like real final “u” after *j, q, and x*. So, we can skip the two dots on an “ü” that goes after *j, q, and x* without causing confusion.

Table 1 Pinyin syllables in mini-lesson 1-6

There are 283 Pinyin syllables in the following table. Can you pronounce all of them? Please discuss with your classmates: what happened to the blank boxes? Why are some syllables underlined?

	ā	á	ǎ	à	ō	ó	ǒ	ò	ē	é	ě	è	ī	í	ǐ	ì	ū	ú	ǔ	ù	24
b	bā	bá	bǎ	bà	bō	bó	bǒ	bò									bū	bú	bǔ	bù	12
p	pā	pá		pà	pō	pó	pǒ	pò					pī	pí	pǐ	pì	pū	pú	pǔ	pù	14
m	mā	má	mǎ	mà	mō	mó	mǒ	mò					mī	mí	mǐ	mì	mū	mú	mǔ	mù	15
f	fā	fá	fǎ	fà		fó											fū	fú	fǔ	fù	9
d	dā	dá	dǎ	dà						dé			dī	dí	dǐ	dì	dū	dú	dǔ	dù	13
t	tā		tǎ	tà								tè	tī	tí	tǐ	tì	tū	tú	tǔ	tù	12
n	nā	ná	nǎ	nà						né		nè	nī	ní	nǐ	nì		nú	nǔ	nù	15
l	lā	lá	lǎ	là					lē			lè	lī	lí	lǐ	lì	lū	lú	lǔ	lù	17
g	gā	gá	gǎ	gà					gē	gé	gě	gè					gū	gú	gǔ	gù	12
k	kā		kǎ						kē	ké	kě	kè					kū		kǔ	kù	9
h	hā	há	hǎ	hà					hē	hé		hè					hū	hú	hǔ	hù	11
j													jī	jí	jǐ	jì					8
q													qī	qí	qǐ	qì					8
x													xī	xí	xǐ	xì					8
z	zā	zá	zǎ							zé		zè	zī	zí	zǐ	zì	zū	zú	zǔ		11
c	cā		cǎ									cè	cī	cí	cǐ	cì	cū	cú		cù	10
s	sā		sǎ	sà								sè	sī		sǐ	sì	sū	sú		sù	10
r											rè					rì			rú	rǔ	6
zh	zhā	zhá	zhǎ	zhà					zhē	zhé	zhě	zhè	zhī	zhí	zhǐ	zhì	zhū	zhú	zhǔ	zhù	16
ch	chā	chá	chǎ	chà					chē		chě	chè	chī	chí	chǐ	chì	chū	chú	chǔ	chù	15
sh	shā	shá	shǎ	shà					shē	shé	shě	shè	shī	shí	shǐ	shì	shū	shú	shǔ	shù	16
y*													yī	yí	yǐ	yì					8
w*													yī	yí	wú	wù	wū	wú	wǔ	wù	4

* When spelling a character, the simple finals i, u, and ü can't stand alone, but have to follow another leading letter. i=yi, u=wu, and ü=yü.

Spell
and
Read

a



wǒ nǐ tā shì wá wa
我 你 他， 是 娃 娃，
dú zì mǔ lè hā hā
读 字 母， 乐 哈 哈。

a o e, i u ü,
wǒ nǐ tā bù dǎ mà
我 你 他， 不 打 骂。

o



pó po bó bo
婆 婆 伯 伯，
lā chē mó mò
拉 车 磨 磨。

bó bo lā chē
伯 伯 拉 车，
pó po mó mò
婆 婆 磨 磨。

e



zhū gē ge dú ér gē
猪 哥 哥， 读 儿 歌，

d t n l g k h,

é mā ma lè hē hē
鹅 妈 妈， 乐 呵 呵，

yí bù yì gē é é é。
一 步 一 歌 一 步 一 歌 一 步 一 歌。

i



mǔ jī hé xiǎo jī
母 鸡 和 小 鸡，

chī mǐ shǔ dì yī
吃 米 数 第 一，

gē gē gē jī jī jī
咯 咯 咯， 叽 叽 叽，

yí cì chī le wǔ bǎ mǐ
一 次 吃 了 五 把 米。

s & sh

shí sì hé sì shí
十 四 和 四 十

sì shì sì
四 是 四，

shí shì shí
十 是 十，

shí sì shì shí sì
十 四 是 十 四，

sì shì shì sì shí
四 十 是 四 十。

xiǎng shuō duì sì
要 想 说 对 四，

shé tóu chī yá qǐ
舌 头 碰 牙 齿。

xiǎng shuō duì shí
要 想 说 对 十，

shé tóu bié shēn zhí
舌 头 别 伸 直。

shé néng dú de zhǔn
谁 能 读 得 准，

qǐng lái shì yí shì
请 来 试 一 试。

u



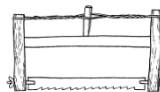
tù zǐ dǎ gǔ dū dū dū
兔 子 打 鼓 嘟 嘟 嘟，

dǎ pò dà gǔ wū wū kū
打 破 大 鼓 呜 呜 哭，

bù kū bù kū
不 哭， 不 哭，

mā ma ná bù bǔ pò gǔ
妈 妈 拿 布 补 破 鼓。

ü



lā dà jù chē dà jù
拉 大 锯， 扯 大 锯。

wǒ hé bà ba dì lǐ qù
我 和 爸 爸 地 里 去。

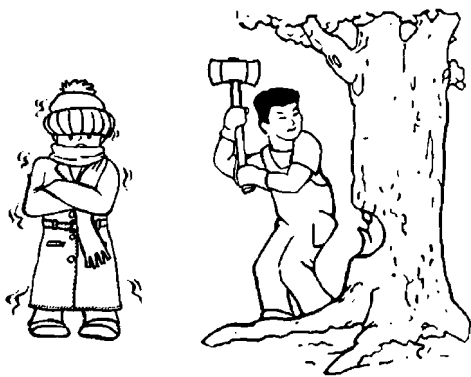
jú zi yā lí gè gè dà
橘 子 鸭 梨 个 个 大，

yù mǐ mài zi kē kē lǜ
玉 米 麦 子 棵 棵 绿。

* Please see page 48 for the new characters introduced in the above rhymes.

fú 斧子和皮大衣

一个冬天的早晨，风哥哥红鼻子和风弟弟蓝鼻子在外面散步。天很冷，人们都还在家里睡大觉呢。突然，他们看见路上来了两个人。一个人坐在马车上，身上穿着一件新的皮大衣。另一个人走在路上，身上没穿多少衣服，手里拿着一把旧斧子。红鼻子哥哥低声问蓝鼻子弟弟：“你说，斧子和皮大衣，哪一个暖和？”



弟弟回答：“那还用问吗？当然是皮大衣暖和。”哥哥说：“让我们来试一试，看看到底哪个暖和。”

红鼻子和蓝鼻子一起用力吹呀吹。不久，路边的水就变成了冰。坐在车上的人用皮大衣把自己包起来，可是，他还是觉得越来越冷。最后，他在车上再也坐不住，只好下车，躲进路旁的小屋里去了。

那个拿斧子的人呢，大风刚开始吹起来的时候，他觉得身上有点冷。他走到路边，挺了挺身子，举起斧子，用力砍起树来。他砍啊砍啊，越砍越热，身上出汗了。最后，他把外衣也脱了。

蓝鼻子吹累了，只好停下来休息。红鼻子拍了拍弟弟，得意地说：“老弟啊，你还年轻，知道的事儿还不多。看见了吧，斧子比皮大衣要暖和得多！”

新字新词：斧子(fú) 暖和(nuǎn huo) 砍(kǎn) 年轻(nián qīng)

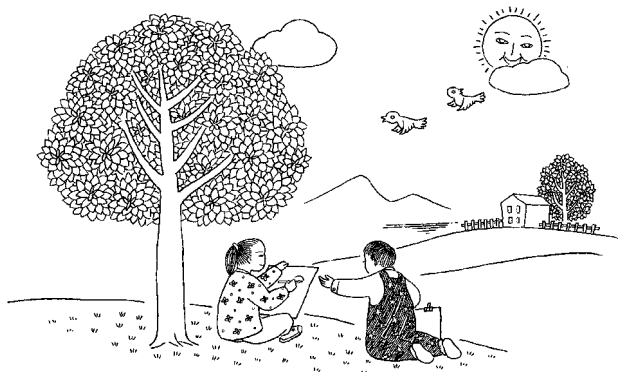
借笔

放学了，弟弟和姐姐一起画画。弟弟画着画着，突然对姐姐说：“姐姐，请把你的笔借给我用一用好吗？”

姐姐问：“你为什么要借我的笔呢？你不是一直很喜欢你自己的笔吗？”

“我喜欢我的笔，是因为它很漂亮。可是，可是……”弟弟停了停才说：“可是，漂亮又有有什么用呢？它一点也不听我的话！我叫它画什么，它总是画不好，还常常画错。姐姐的画画得这么好，你的笔一定是一支听话的笔，你叫它画什么它就画什么，叫它画多好就画多好，不是吗？”

新字新词：借 总是

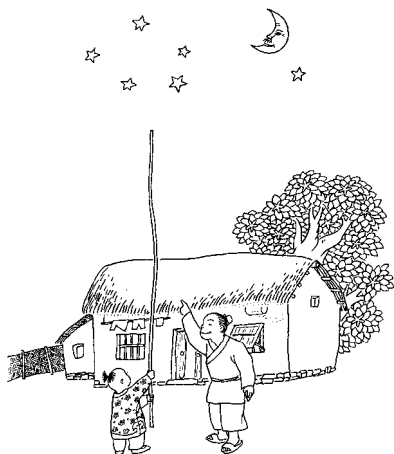


爬到屋顶上去

天黑了，一个孩子举着长长的竹竿，在院子里跳来跳去，爸爸走来看见了，奇怪地问：“咦，儿子，你在那里干什么？”

儿子说：“爸爸，您看，满天都是亮闪闪的星星，我想打几颗下来挂在家里，可怎么也打不着。”

爸爸听了，摇了摇头说：“傻孩子，你站在地上，怎么能打得着星星呢？不信，你爬到屋顶上去，站得高一点，不就打得着了么？”



谜语

一个小孩，
又细又白。
人家小孩越长越高，
这个小孩越长越矮。