

Session 2 – Dec. 10, 2007

Pinyin and Tones



Pinyin (拼音)

- Pinyin – *Pin* (拼) means "spell" and *yin* (音) means "sound".
- Pinyin uses Latin alphabets to represent the sounds of the official spoken language in China, which is Mandarin.
- It is also an international system to spell Chinese names and places (i.e. Beijing, Shanghai and Xi'an, the places you will be visiting).



If you would like to read more about
Pinyin,

please visit this web site below –

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinyin>



Tones

- There are 4 tones in spoken Chinese or Mandarin.
- Different tones represent different meanings even with same syllable/spelling.





Tones and Tone Marks

- First tone “-” i.e. Māma (mom) (妈妈)
- Second tone “/” i.e. má (flax) (麻)
- Third tone – “ ˇ” i.e. m ǎ (horse) (马)
- Fourth tone – “\” i.e. mà (scold) (骂)
- Neutral/light tone (no tone marks) – i.e. **māma**





Finals/Vowels – a, o, e, i



a (ah) āyí 阿姨 (aunt)



o (aw) bóbo 伯伯 (uncle)




e (uh) è 饿 (hungry)




i (ee) bízi 鼻子 (nose)



More vowels – u, Ü


 u (oo) lù 路 (road)

 Ü (yew) l Ü yóu 旅游 (travel)







Initials – b,p,m, f

 b (baw) bàba 爸爸 (dad)

 p (paw) píngguǒ 苹果 (apple)


 m (maw) māma 妈妈 (mom)
mèimei 妹妹 (younger sister)


 f (faw) fǔtóu 斧头 (hatchet)







More initials – d, t, n, l

 d (duh) dàngāo 蛋糕 (cake)
 dìdi 弟弟 (younger brother)


 t (tuh) táng 糖 (candy)


 n (nuh) niǎo 鸟 (bird)

 l (luh) lù 鹿 (deer)



More Initials – g, k, h

 g (guh) g ō u 狗 (dog)
gēge 哥哥 (older brother)

 k (kuh) kělè 可乐 (Coke)
kuàizi 筷子 (chopsticks)


 h (huh) hē 喝 (to drink)





More initials – j, q, x

 j (gee) jiějie 姐姐 (elder sister)

 q (chee) qìchē 汽车 (car)

 x (she) xièxie 谢谢 (Thank you)





More initials – zh, ch, sh

 zh (jir) zh ĭ 纸 (paper)

 ch (chir) chāzi 叉子 (fork)

 Sh (shir) shīzi 狮子 (lion)





More initials – r, z, c, s

■ r (ir) rén 人 (Human, people)

■ z (dzuh) zī jǐ 自己 (self)

■ c (tsuh) cǎo 草 (grass)

■ s (suh) suàn 蒜 (garlic)





Introducing your family members

zhè shì wǒ de ... = This is my ...

这是我的....

zhè shì wǒ de māma. = This is my mom.

这是我的妈妈.

zhè shì wǒ de bàba. = This is my dad.

这是我的爸爸.





Family Members

- **bàba** (dad) (爸爸)
- **māma** (mom) (妈妈)
- **gēge** (older brother) (哥哥)
- **jiějie** (older sister) (姐姐)
- **wǒ** (me) (我)
- **dìdi** (younger brother) (弟弟)
- **mèimei** (younger sister) (妹妹)
- **yéye** (grandfather) (爷爷)
- **nǎinai** (grandmother) (奶奶)

