

THEME Greetings and Basics I

COMMUNICATIVE OBJECTIVES

- Greeting teachers and counting numbers 1-10
- Identifying one's name and nationality
- Indicating that one has a question
- Asking how to say something in Chinese
- Expressing and responding to thanks

GRAMMAR AND LESSON FOCUS

- Introducing tones
- Introducing stroke types and character forms
- Introducing initials
- Introducing stroke order
- Introducing finals
- Introducing simplified characters

FOCUS ON CHARACTERS

- 一、二、三、四、五、六、七、八、九、十、人、大、小、上、中、下、工、又、文、言

第一課 老師好！



PART 1: A CASUAL CHAT

Duìhuà Yī

Lǎoshī hǎo!

Lǎoshī: Shàngkè. Nǐmen hǎo !

Xuéshēng: Lǎoshī hǎo!

Lǎoshī: Gēn wǒ shuō: líng, yī, èr, sān, sì, wǔ.

Xuéshēng: Líng, yī, èr, sān, sì, wǔ.

Lǎoshī: Hěn hǎo! Liù, qī, bā, jiǔ, shí.

Xuéshēng: Liù, qī, bā, jiǔ, shí.

Lǎoshī: Hěn hǎo!

DIALOGUE 1

Hello, Professor!

Class has begun. Hello everyone!

Hello, Teacher!

Say after me: zero, one, two, three, four, five.

Zero, one, two, three, four, five.

Very good. Six, seven, eight, nine, ten.

Six, seven, eight, nine, ten.

Very good.

Read over the following words (**shēngcí**) and memorize their pronunciation and meaning. Then read the dialogue and see if you can figure out some tonal patterns in Chinese.

1.	duìhuà	N	dialogue
2.	lǎoshī	N	teacher
3.	hǎo	Adj	good
4.	shàngkè	VO	to start/have class
5.	nǐmen	Pron	you (plural)
6.	xuéshēng	N	student
7.	shuō	V	to say
8.	líng	Num	zero
9.	yī	Num	one (when used as part of a telephone number or other numerical code, the number “one” is pronounced as yāo)
10.	èr	Num	two
11.	sān	Num	three
12.	sì	Num	four
13.	wǔ	Num	five
14.	hěn	Adv	very
15.	liù	Num	six
16.	qī	Num	seven
17.	bā	Num	eight
18.	jiǔ	Num	nine
19.	shí	Num	ten

PART 2: A CASUAL CHAT

DUÌHUÀ ÈR

Wǒ shì Měiguórén.

Àiměi: Nǐ hǎo! Wǒ jiào Xiè Àiměi.

Tiānyī: Nǐ hǎo! Wǒ jiào Liú Tiānyī.

Àiměi: Wǒ shì Měiguórén, nǐ ne?

Tiānyī: Wǒ shì Zhōngguó rén.

Àiměi: À! Wǒ yào qù shàngkè le. Zàijiàn.

Tiānyī: Zàijiàn.

DIALOGUE 2

I am American.

Hi! My name is Amy Xie.

Hi! My name is Tina Liu.

I am American. How about you?

I am Chinese.

Ah! I have to go to class. Bye!

Bye!

20. wǒ	Pron	I, me
21. shì	V	to be
22. Měiguó	PN	America
23. rén	N	person, people
24. nǐ	Pron	you
25. jiào	V	to be called
• Xiè Àiměi	PN	name of a person
• Liú Tiānyī	PN	name of a person
26. ne	Part	how about...?
27. Zhōngguó	PN	China
• à	Intj	Ah
28. yào	Aux	shall, will, must
29. qù	V	to go
• le	Part	(for indicating new situation, completeness of an action, etc.)
30. zàijiàn	V	good-bye

SUPPLEMENTAL VOCABULARY

1. Ālābórén	N	Arab
2. Déguórén	N	German
3. Fǎguórén	N	Frenchman
4. Hánguórén	N	Korean
5. Jiānádàrén	N	Canadian
6. Mòxīgērén	N	Mexican
7. Riběnrén	N	Japanese
8. Táiwānrén	N	Taiwanese
9. Xībānyárén	N	Spaniard
10. Yídàlìrén	N	Italian
11. Yīndùrén	N	Indian
12. Yīngguórén	N	British

PART 3: A CASUAL CHAT

DUÌHUÀ SĀN

Wǒ yǒu yí ge wèntí.

Àiměi: Lǎoshī, wǒ yǒu yí ge wèntí.

Lǎoshī: Nǐ shuō.

Àiměi: “Tone” Zhōngwén zěnmē shuō?

Lǎoshī: Shēngdiào. Zhōngwén yǒu sì ge shēngdiào: yī shēng, èr shēng, sān shēng, sì-shēng. Dǒng bù dǒng?

Àiměi: Dǒng le. Xièxie.

Lǎoshī: Bú kèqì.

DIALOGUE 3

I have a question.

Teacher, I have a question.

Say it.

How do you say “tones” in Chinese?

Shengdiao. Chinese has four tones: first tone, second tone, third tone, fourth tone. Do you understand?

I got it. Thanks.

You’re welcome.

31.	yǒu	V	to have
32.	ge	M	(for counting)
33.	wèntí	N	question
34.	Zhōngwén	N	Chinese
35.	zěnmē	QW	how
36.	shēngdiào	N	tones
37.	dǒng	V	to understand
38.	bù	Adv	not, no
39.	xièxie	IE	thanks
40.	búkèqì	IE	You’re welcome.

SUPPLEMENTAL VOCABULARY

13.	Ālābówén	N	Arabic language	17.	Rìwén	N	Japanese language
14.	Déwén	N	German language	18.	Xībānyáwén	N	Spanish language
15.	Fǎwén	N	French language	19.	Yìdàlìwén	N	Italian language
16.	Hánwén	N	Korean language	20.	Yīngwén	N	English language

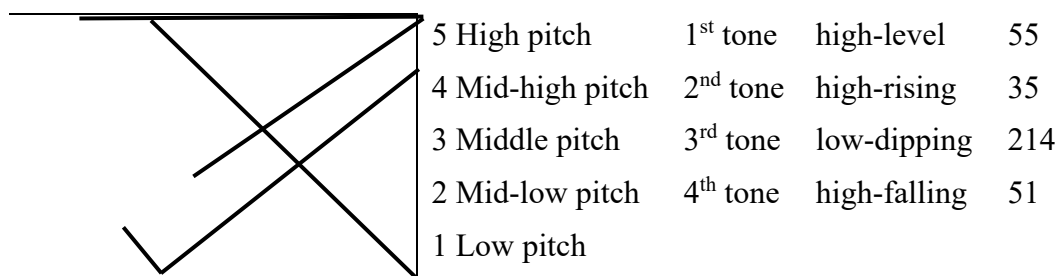
Note that in Chinese, wén refers mostly to the written language, while yǔ refers to the spoken language. Therefore, wén in all of the above words can be replaced by yǔ if the focus is on “speaking a language” (shuō Ālābóyǔ, Déyǔ, Fǎyǔ, Hányǔ, Rìyǔ, Xībānyáyǔ, Yìdàlì yǔ, Yīngyǔ). The only exceptions are Zhōngwén ‘Chinese’ and Yīngwén ‘English,’ which have been used so extensively to refer to both written and spoken language that the technical distinction between wén and yǔ has been lost. However, Hànyǔ may still be used to place stronger emphasis on Mandarin as a *spoken* language. Note that while Zhōngwén can refer to written and spoken Chinese of any dialect—not just Mandarin—Hànyǔ only refers to spoken *Mandarin*.



TONES AND PRONUNCIATION (Shēngdiào hé Fāyīn)

1. Tones (Shēngdiào)

When pronouncing the numbers zero to ten in Chinese, notice that there are four tones: (1) yī ‘one’, sān ‘three’, qī ‘seven’, bā ‘eight’; (2) líng ‘zero’, shí ‘ten’; (3) wǔ ‘five,’ jiǔ ‘nin’; (4) èr ‘two,’ sì ‘four,’ liù ‘six.’ In Mandarin Chinese, there are four basic tones: first tone (dīyīshēng), second tone (dì’èrshēng), third tone (disānshēng), and fourth tone (disìshēng). The prominent Chinese linguist Yuen-ren Chao (1933, 1968) devised the following graph to represent the pitch changes of each tone.



The pitch of the first tone starts at 5, the highest point of one’s pitch range, and ends at 5. It is like the “**aaahhhh**” sound you make when having your throat checked at the doctor’s. The second tone’s pitch starts at 3, the midpoint of one’s pitch range, and ends at 5. It is like saying “Is it **serious**?” when you ask the doctor after the check. The pitch of the third tone starts at 2, the second lowest point of one’s pitch range, falls to the lowest point of one’s pitch range and then goes upward to 4, the second highest point of one’s pitch range. It is like the sound of “**Well...**” said by the doctor as considers your question. The pitch of the fourth tone starts at 5, the highest point of one’s pitch range and drops to 1, the lowest point of one’s pitch range. It is like the sound of “**No**” when the doctor answers your question. You can also think of 1st tone as holding a high note while singing in an opera about your mother, 2nd tone: hearing a knock at the door, thinking it’s maybe your mother, and saying “ma?”, 3rd tone: hearing your mother say or do something very strange, and saying with a tone of concern and surprise, “ma?”, and 4th tone: angrily chastising your mother with “ma!”.

Although these four pitch contours are also present in English, they are not used to distinguish different morphemes, the smallest meaningful unit of a language, as Mandarin Chinese is. The syllable ma with four different tones carries different meanings: mā ‘mother,’ má ‘hemp,’ mǎ ‘horse,’ mà ‘to scold.’ Note that corresponding to the tonal contour, the first tone is marked by a symbol of a straight line above the main vowel, the second tone an upward slant line, the third tone a check mark, and the fourth tone a downward slant line.

Listen carefully to how “students” or “you” (plural) are pronounced in Chinese. The second syllable in “xuésheng” and “nǐmen” is unstressed and has a very short pitch range, which is a “neutral tone” (qīngshēng). The pitch of the neutral tone differs

depending on the preceding tone. In general, the pitch of a neutral tone is high when it follows a half third tone (see Lesson 2 for an explanation of the half third tone) and low when it follows other tones.

2. Initials (Shēngmǔ)

In Mandarin Chinese, there are twenty-one consonant initials, which can be classified into six types according to the positioning of the mouth in producing the sound.

Type		Initial				
1	Bilabial	b	p	m	f	
2	Dental	d	t	n		l
3	Velars	g	k		h	
4	Dental Sibilants	z	c		s	
5	Retroflex	zh	ch		sh	r
6	Palatals	j	q		x	

Bilabial

- b** An unaspirated voiceless plosive sound. It is pronounced more like the “p” sound in “spy” than the “b” in “bike,” since the vocal cords do not vibrate when producing the sound.
- p** An aspirated voiceless plosive sound. It is pronounced almost identically to the English “p” as in “pie”. “Aspirated” means that a puff of air is released before the following vowel sound begins.
- m** A voiced bilabial nasal. The vocal cords vibrate. It is pronounced like “m” in “mother”.
- f** A voiceless labial-dental fricative. The vocal cords do not vibrate. It is pronounced like the “f” in “five”, but somewhat more softly.

Dental

- d** An unaspirated voiceless dental plosive. It is pronounced more like the “t” sound in “steak” than the “d” in “down,” since the vocal cords do not vibrate when producing the sound, and the tongue is a bit lower down on the teeth.
- t** An aspirated voiceless dental plosive. It is an aspirated equivalent of “d” and just like the English “t” in “take,” but requires more air to be blown out.
- n** A voiced dental nasal. It is pronounced like “n” in “nice”.

- l** A voiced dental lateral. It is pronounced like “l” in “light”.

Velar

- g** An unaspirated voiceless velar plosive. It is pronounced by raising the back of the tongue against the soft palate to block the air, and then releasing the tongue with a breath of air. The vocal cords do not vibrate. It’s pronounced like “k” in “sky.”
- k** An aspirated voiceless velar plosive. It is pronounced with the mouth in position for “g” but using a strong puff of air. The vocal cords do not vibrate. It is the aspirated equivalent of “g.” It’s pronounced like “k” in “key.”
- h** A voiceless velar fricative. It is pronounced by raising the back of the tongue to the soft palate creating a narrow passage where the air is expelled with friction. The vocal cords do not vibrate. It’s pronounced like “h” in “horse”.

Dental Sibilants

- z** An unaspirated voiceless dental-affricate. It is pronounced by moving the tongue forward to block air by placing its tip against the back of the upper teeth, and then dropping the tip to release the air through the narrow passage with friction. The vocal cords do not vibrate. Pronounced like “ds” in “birds,” “goods,” or “woods.”
- c** An aspirated voiceless dental affricate. It is the aspirated equivalent of [z]. Pronounced like “ts” in “cats.”
- s** A voiceless dental fricative. It is pronounced by putting forward the tongue tip close to the back of the upper teeth to make a narrow passage for the air to run out through with friction. Pronounced like “s” in “sam.”

Note that when /i/ follows the consonant initials “z,” “c” or “s,” it is pronounced as the prolonged “z,” “c” or “s,” without the lips rounded.

Retroflex

The tongue is curled back (retroflexed) until the tip touches the front part of the roof of the mouth.

- zh** An unaspirated voiceless retroflex affricate. It is pronounced by turning the tongue tip up against the front part of the hard palate to block the air, and then releasing it by narrowing of the air passage between the tongue tip and the hard palate. The vocal cords do not vibrate. Pronounced like “g” in “German”, “dg” or “bridge.”
- ch** An aspirated voiceless retroflex affricate. It is pronounced with the month in the

same position of “zh.” The vocal cords do not vibrate. It is an aspirated equivalent of “zh”. Pronounced like “ch” in “**church**”, or “**chat**,” but do not protrude or round your lips unless it is followed by the sound u.

- sh** A voiceless retroflex fricative. It is pronounced by turning the tongue tip up toward the hard palate, forming a narrow passage through which air escapes with friction. The vocal cords do not vibrate. Pronounced like “sh” in “**shirt**”, or “**shore**,” but do not protrude or round your lips unless it is followed by the sound u.
- r** A voiced retroflex fricative. It is pronounced with the mouth in position for “sh,” but with less friction. The vocal cords vibrate. Pronounced like “sur” in “**pleasure**.” It is different from an English r in that it carries a buzzing sound.

When /i/ follows the retroflex initials “zh,” “ch,” “sh,” or “r,” it is pronounced as the prolonged “zh,” “ch,” “sh,” or “r,” without the lips rounded. It can be produced by pronouncing r without moving the tongue. The part without audible friction is [i].

Palatals

The tip of the tongue lies behind the front bottom teeth and the top of the tongue arches to create a small passageway with the roof of the mouth.

- j** An unaspirated voiceless palatal affricate. This sound is pronounced by placing the tip of the tongue against the lower teeth, blocking the air by placing the middle part of the tongue against the hard palate. The vocal cords do not vibrate. Pronounced like “j” in “**jeep**”, or “**jimmy**”.
- q** An aspirated voiceless palatal affricate. It is the aspirated equivalent of “j.” Instead of holding the air in, now force it out. Pronounced like “ch” in “**chip**”, or “**cheese**”.
- x** A voiceless palatal fricative. It is pronounced by raising the tongue toward the hard palate to create a narrow passage and expelling the air with friction. Instead of pressing your tongue tightly, hold it loosely and allow the air to squeeze out. Pronounced somewhat like “sh” in “**ship**”, or “**sheer**,” but remember that the sound x is actually somewhere between “s” and “sh.”

3. Finals (Yùnmǔ)

In Mandarin Chinese, finals include a medial (jièyīn), a nucleus or main vowel (zhǔyào yuányīn) and a coda (yùnwěi). Among the components of a syllable, only the tone and main vowel are obligatory. For example, the syllable yī ‘one’ has only a vowel plus the first tone, while shēng ‘tone, sound’ has an initial “sh” plus a vowel “e,” nasal ending “ng,” and the first tone. The syllable wǒ ‘I, me’ has a medial “u” and a vowel “o” plus the third tone. See the component of a Chinese syllable illustrated below.

Tone			
Initial (Consonant)	Final		
	(Medial) i / u / ü	Main Vowel	(Coda) (vowel off-glide/ nasal ending)

Following is a table of all the finals in Mandarin Chinese.

Medial	Row	Ending												
		zero			-i		-o/-u		-n		-ng			-r
Zero	a	-i	a	e	ai	ei	ao	ou	an	en	ang	eng	ong	er
-i-	i	i	ia	ie	iai		iao	iu	ian	in	iang	ing	iong	
-u-	u	u	ua	uo	uai	ui			uan	un	uang	ueng		
-ü-	ü	ü		üe					üan	ün				

Single Finals

- i** The opening of the mouth is narrow and widely flat. Typically, It is pronounced like the “ee” in “jeep”. However, flowing “c”, “s”, “z” and “zh”, “ch”, “sh”, “”, it indicates a continuation of the buzzing sound of the fricative itself.
- u** Make your lips round and keep your mouth narrow, and keep the back of your throat as open as possible. It pronounced like “u” in “true” or “o” in “shoe”.
- ü** Keep the tongue in “i” (“ee” in “jeep”) position and force the lips into a round position. “ü” is a combination of “i+u”. This sound has no English equivalent. However, it is the same as the French “u” in “tu” or the German “ü.”
- a** The mouth is wide open. The lips are not rounded. It is pronounced like “a” in “father”, but the mouth is much more widely open.
- o** The mouth is open. The lips are rounded. It occurs after the initials b, p, m, f, and stands for the final uo. It is pronounced like the sound between “woe” and “war” in English.
- e** The mouth is half open and unrounded. Open the back of your throat as wide as possible, make your lips not round and open the soft palate, then close it a little bit. It’s somewhat like that sound you make when you’re disgusted by something and want to vomit.

Pinyin, the official Romanization system implemented by the PRC government, is essentially a shorthand, and some vowels such as “a” and “i” actually represent several

vowel sounds. Pronunciation of vowels is dependent on the consonants preceding them, and to a lesser extent those following them. Also note that most English vowels are frequently pronounced as diphthongs, with a “y” or “w”-like sound at the end. This is not the case in Chinese, where vowels are purely “round”—compare the “w” sound at the end of “Joe” in English with the round “o” at the end of “Zhou” in Chinese.

Compound Finals

- ai** sounds like its English counterpart “I”, but do not stress “y” sound.
- ei** is pronounced like the “ey” in “hey”, but do not stress “y” sound.
- ao** is pronounced like the “ow” in “how” while keeping the mouth wide open.
- ie** sounds like the “ye” in “yes” in English.
- ou** is pronounced like the “o” in “bone.”
- ia** is pronounced like the “ya” in “yarn.”
- ua** is pronounced like “wa” as in “wall.”
- ui** is really shorthand for “uei” and is pronounced accordingly, sounds similar to “way”.
- uai** is pronounced like “y” as in “why” but without the mouth closed at the end.
- uo** is somewhere between the “uo” in “quota” and the “ua” in “qualm.”
- iao/ iou** Take “i” as an initial and then pronounce the second vowel sound e, a, ao, and ou for each syllable.
- üe** Take “i” and “u” as a combined initial, and then pronounce the vowel “ie”. “üe” is a syllable of “ü + ie”.

Nasal Finals

- in an** These are front nasal finals. Essentially, when there is a Chinese “n”, simply pronounce the Chinese initial and then pronounce and English “n”, but be careful not to add an English “e” sound. In other words, you want to add just the consonant “n” without saying “ne”. In “an”, the “a” sounds more like that in “can”.
- ing, ang, eng,** They are back nasal finals. When you pronounce “ng”, the tongue should be put further back. These are pronounced the same as their English counterparts, except the “g” is barely pronounced. Essentially, your mouth gets into the

- ong** position to make a “g” sound, but you don’t pronounce any subsequent vowels.
- ian,** Pronounce “i” shorter and lighter, then glide naturally from the former to the latter. The latter part should be pronounced longer and more loudly. Same as
iang above, just add the English “g” but barely pronounce the “g”.
- uan,** Pronounce “u” first and then glide naturally from the former to the latter. The
uang, latter part should be pronounced longer and more loudly. Same as above, just
u(e)n, add the English “g”, but barely pronounce the “g”.
ueng
- üan,** Pronounce “ü” shorter and lighter, and then glide naturally from the former to
ü(e)n the latter. The latter part should be pronounced longer and more loudly. In
“üan”, the “a” sounds more like that in “can”.

Note that “n” and “ng” are pronounced very similarly to their English counterparts, but they are a lot less stressed and shorter. When you pronounce “ng”, the tongue should be further back.



CHARACTERS (Hànzi)

1. Stroke Types

In Chinese, the writing system is called wénzì and is ideograph-based, unlike the alphabetic script of written English. Though Chinese characters (hànzi) may look like “pictures” to unacquainted eyes, they are not formed of random strokes (bǐhuà). Each character can be broken down into one or more of eight types of strokes as below.

Stroke Type				Examples		
Horizontal	héng	橫	一	三	sān	three
Vertical	shù	豎	丨	十	shí	ten
Left stroke	piě	撇	丿	八	bā	eight
Right stroke	nà	捺	㇇	大	dà	big
Dot	diǎn	點	丶	小	xiǎo	small
Hook	gōu	鈎	乙	九	jiǔ	nine
Turning stroke	zhé	折	㇇	四	sì	four
Rising stroke	tí	提	㇇	打	dǎ	to play

In the era of ballpoint pens and word processing, it may be difficult to discern the differences between left stroke and rising stroke, but they look very different when written with a traditional brush. The starting point of a stroke tends to be thicker and the ending point thinner and pointed. It is also worth noting that block characters and script characters often look quite different, and the latter may be difficult to read even for students at more advanced stages of study.

See if you can identify various strokes in the following character which means “forever.”

永

2. Character Forms

Each Chinese character consists of one to thirty-three strokes, but most characters have fewer than fifteen strokes. When you look at characters, it should be apparent that regardless of the number of strokes each character has, it always fits within a square. To write characters well, you not only must fit all components into a square, but must also pay close attention to the proportional size of each stroke. Balance is the essence of good character writing. In general, Chinese characters can be classified into three forms.

Type	Character Form			
1				
Example	師	謝	語	題
2				
Example	賣	家	宿	能
3				
Example	四			

3. Stroke Order

To write multi-stroke characters quickly and smoothly, you will need to know the correct stroke order (bǐshùn). This is especially true when using a brush to practice calligraphy. Even though the ability to type Chinese characters on computers means that you can write Chinese merely by being able to recognize the desired characters, and without remembering their stroke orders, you will invariably encounter situations where hand-writing characters is necessary—either on paper, or into a computer system when searching for the pinyin of a Chinese character you don't know. In general, Chinese characters are written based on the following stroke orders:

	Stroke Order	Examples
1	From top to bottom	三 sān three
2	From left to right	人 rén people
3	Middle first, then two sides	小 xiǎo small

4	First horizontal, then vertical	十	shí	ten	一 十
5	From outside to inside	四	sì	four	丨 冂 𠃉 𠃊 𠃋 𠃌
6	Finish the inside, then enclose it	四	sì	four	丨 冂 𠃉 𠃊 𠃋 𠃌

4. Simplification of Chinese characters

Traditionally, in formal settings, Chinese was written with a writing brush in full-form characters (fántǐzì ‘complicated characters’) vertically from top to bottom and from right to left across the paper. However, in informal settings such as personal correspondence, people used shortened forms (jiǎntǐzì ‘simplified characters’) to speed up their writing. Because many characters have over fifteen strokes and are hard to memorize, the PRC government launched a national, unified character simplification project to promote general literacy. This began with a list of 515 simplified characters promulgated in 1956, and was followed by an updated list of 2,238 simplified characters in 1964. Many of these official simplified characters are shorthand forms which had been in use for centuries, and others were derived from the traditional characters, often by altering specific radicals in consistent ways. Compare the differences in the following set of characters.

Full-Form Characters	Simplified Characters
門 們 問	门 们 问
馬 嗎 媽	马 吗 妈
課 誰 請	课 谁 请
國 師 時	国 师 时

Simplified characters are used in most publications in the PRC and in some Chinese communities in Southeast Asia such as Singapore and Malaysia, whereas traditional characters are used in Taiwan and in most overseas Chinese communities, including throughout North America. Students of Chinese eventually must learn to recognize both forms, and should be able to write in at least one form. To ensure that you have as broad a foundation as possible, this book introduces the traditional characters first and provides the simplified counterpart when applicable.

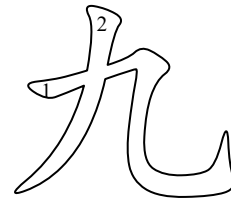
yī one
1 stroke



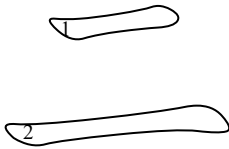
wǔ five
4 strokes



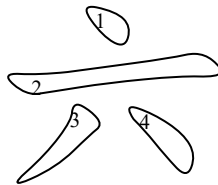
jiǔ nine
2 strokes



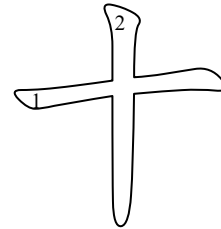
èr two
2 strokes



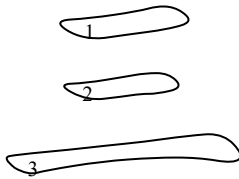
liù six
4 stroke



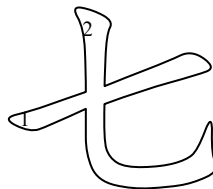
shí ten
2 strokes



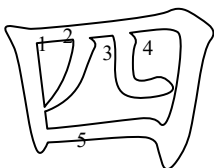
sān three
3 strokes



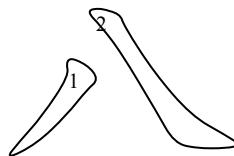
qī seven
2 strokes



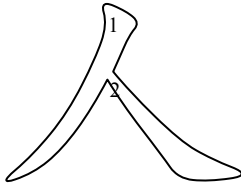
sì four
5 strokes



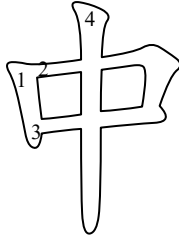
bā eight
2 strokes



rén person, people
2 strokes



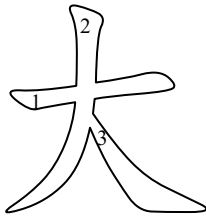
zhōng middle, in
4 strokes



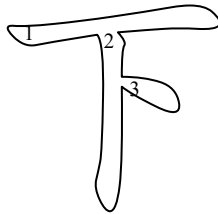
wén language
4 strokes



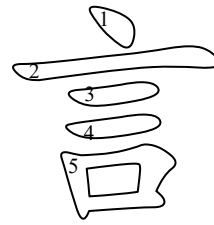
dà big, great
3 strokes



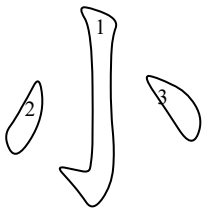
xià below, next, to leave
3 strokes



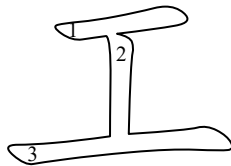
yán word, speech, talk
7 strokes



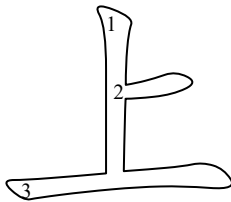
xiǎo small
3 strokes



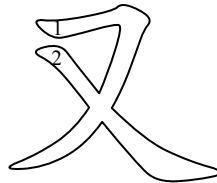
gōng work
3 strokes



shàng over, top, up
3 strokes



yòu again, both...and...
2 strokes





REVIEW (Fùxí)

Numerals

zero	Num	líng
one	Num	yī
two	Num	èr
three	Num	sān
four	Num	sì
five	Num	wǔ

six	Num	liù
seven	Num	qī
eight	Num	bā
nine	Num	jiǔ
ten	Num	shí

Nouns and Measure Words

(for counting)	M	ge
America	PN	Měiguó
China	PN	Zhōngguó
Chinese	N	Zhōngwén
dialogue	N	duìhuà
I, me	Pron	wǒ
person, people	N	rén

question	N	wèntí
student	N	xuésheng
teacher	N	lǎoshī
tones	N	shēngdiào
you	Pron	nǐ
you (plural)	Pron	nǐmen

Verbs and Adjectives

called, to be	V	jiào
go, to	V	qù
good	Adj	hǎo
good-bye	V	zàijiàn
have, to	V	yǒu

start/have class, to	VO	shàngkè
to be, to	V	shì
to say, to	V	shuō
understand, to	V	dǒng

Adverbs and Others

how	QW	zěnmē
how about...?	QP	ne
not, no	Neg	bù
shall, will, must	Aux	yào

thanks	IE	xièxie
very	Adv	hěn
You're welcome.	IE	búkèqǐ

Greetings

1.	Hello, teacher.	Lǎoshī hǎo.
2.	Hello, teacher_____.	_____lǎoshī hǎo.
3.	Hello, students.	Tóngxuémen hǎo.
4.	Hi, everybody.	Dàjiā hǎo.
5.	Hi, you all.	Nǐmen hǎo.
6.	How to say___ in Chinese?	___Zhōngwén zěnmē shuō?
7.	What does___mean?	___shì shénme yìsi?
8.	Thank you!	Xièxie.
9.	You're welcome.	Búkèqi.
10.	(Let's start) to have the class.	Shàngkè.
11.	The class is finished.	Xiàkè.
12.	Good-bye. (lit. "again-see")	Zàijiàn.

Initials

Type		Initial Examples		
1	Bilabial	b	bā 'eight'	bù 'not, no'
		p	pà '(to be) afraid'	
		m	mā 'mother'	Měiguó 'U.S.'
		f	Fǎguó 'France'	
2	Dental	d	duì 'correct'	
		t	tā 'him, him, she, her, it'	
		n	nǐ 'you'	
		l	lǎoshī 'teacher'	liù 'six'
3	Velars	g	ge '(for counting)'	
		k	kè 'lesson'	
		h	hěn 'very'	hǎo 'good'
4	Dental	z	zì 'word'	zǐ 'son, child'
	Sibilants	c	cū 'thick'	cuò '(to be) wrong'
		s	sì 'four'	sī 'to think'
5	Retroflex	zh	zhī 'to know'	zhí '(to be) straight'
		ch	chī 'to eat'	chí '(to be) late'
		sh	shī 'teacher'	shí 'ten'
		r	rì 'sun'	rén 'person, people'

6	Palatals	j	jī '(for counting)'	jǐ 'how many?'
		q	qī 'lesson'	qǐ 'to get up'
		x	xī 'very'	xǐ 'to wash'

Finals

Type		Final Examples		
1	Single	i	yī 'one	bǐ 'pen'
	Finals	u	bù 'not, no'	
		ü	yǔ 'rain'	yú 'fish'
		a	mā 'mother'	
		e	è 'hungry'	
2	Compound	ai	ài 'to love'	
	Finals	ei	gěi 'to give'	
		ao	dào 'to arrive'	
		ie	yè 'page'	
		ou	tóu 'head'	
		ia	yá 'tooth'	
		ua	huà 'language'	
		ui	duì 'correct'	
		uai	huài 'bad'	
		uo	wǒ 'I, me'	
		iao	yào 'to want'	
		iou	yǒu 'to have'	yòu 'again'
		üe	yuè 'month'	
3	Nasal	in	jīn 'today'	
	Finals	an	tán 'to talk'	hàn 'Han, Chinese'
		en	hěn 'very'	běn 'measure word for books'
		ing	míng 'bright'	
		ang	wàng 'to forget'	
		eng	děng 'to wait'	
		ong	yòng 'to use'	dòng 'to understand'

		ian	yán ‘to be strict’	
		iang	yáng ‘foreign, ocean’	
		uan	wǎn ‘late’	duǎn ‘to be short’
		uang	huáng ‘yellow’	
		u(e)n	wén ‘language’	
		ueng	wēng ‘old man’	
		üan	yuán ‘dollar’	
		ü(e)n	yùn ‘to move’	

Combination of Simple Initials and Finals in Pinyin Spelling

	b	p	m	f	d	t	n	l	g	k	h
a	ba	pa	ma	fa	da	ta	na	la	ga	ka	ha
o	bo	po	mo	fo							
e			me		de	te	ne	le	ge	ke	he
e											
i											
ai	bai	pai	mai		dai	tai	nai	lai	gai	kai	hai
ei	bei	pei	mei	fei	dei		nei	lei	gei	kei	hei
ao	bao	pao	mao		dao	tao	nao	lao	gao	kao	hao
ou		pou	mou	fou	dou	tou	nou	lou	gou	kou	hou
an	ban	pan	man	fan	dan	tan	nan	lan	gan	kan	han
en	ben	pen	men	fen	den		nen		gen	ken	hen
ang	bang	pang	mang	fang	dang	tang	nang	lang	gang	kang	hang
eng	beng	peng	meng	feng	deng	teng	neng	leng	geng	keng	heng
er											
i	bi	pi	mi		di	ti	ni	li			
ia								lia			
ie	bie	pie	mie		die	tie	nie	lie			
iao	biao	piao	miao		diao	tiao	niao	liao			
iou			miu		diu		niu	liu			
ian	bian	pian	mian		dian	tian	nian	lian			

in	bin	pin	min				nin	lin			
iang							niang	liang			
ing	bing	ping	ming		ding	ting	ning	ling			
ü							nü	lǔ			
üe							nüe	lüe			
üan											
ün											
iong											
u	bu	pu	mu	fu	du	tu	nu	lu	gu	ku	hu
ua									gua	kua	hua
uo					duo	tuo	nuo	luo	guo	kuo	huo
uai									guai	kuai	huai
uei					dui	tui			gui	kui	hui
uan					duan	tuan	nuan	luan	guan	kuan	huan
uen					dun	tun		lun	gun	kun	hun
uang									guang	kuang	huang
ueng											
ong					dong	tong	nong	long	gong	kong	hong

