

MANDARIN CHINESE · BEGINNER REFERENCE

The Complete Pinyin Chart

Every Mandarin Chinese pinyin syllable in one printable chart
— initials, finals, tone marks, and the most-confused pairs
flagged.

21×35

LAYOUT

All initials & finals laid
out

4+1

TONES

Tone marks with
examples

A4

FORMAT

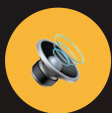
Printable & mobile-
friendly

01 Initials × Finals

Initials run across the top. Finals run down the left. Where a row and column meet you get a valid Mandarin syllable. Cells in **soft red** are the most commonly confused pairs — drill these first.

Final ↓ / Initial →	b	p	m	f	d	t	n	l	g	k	h	j	q	x	zh	ch	sh	r	z	c	s
a	ba	pa	ma	fa	da	ta	na	la	ga	ka	ha	—	—	—	zha	cha	sha	—	za	ca	sa
o	bo	po	mo	fo	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
e	—	—	me	—	de	te	ne	le	ge	ke	he	—	—	—	zhe	che	she	re	ze	ce	se
i	bi	pi	mi	—	di	ti	ni	li	—	—	—	ji	qi	xi	zhi	chi	shi	ri	zi	ci	si
u	bu	pu	mu	fu	du	tu	nu	lu	gu	ku	hu	—	—	—	zhu	chu	shu	ru	zu	cu	su
ü	—	—	—	—	—	—	nü	lǜ	—	—	—	ju	qu	xu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
ai	bai	pai	mai	—	dai	tai	nai	lai	gai	kai	hai	—	—	—	zhai	chai	shai	—	zai	cai	sai
ei	bei	pei	mei	fei	dei	—	nei	lei	gei	kei	hei	—	—	—	zhei	—	shei	—	zei	—	—
ao	bao	pao	mao	—	dao	tao	nao	lao	gao	kao	hao	—	—	—	zhao	chao	shao	rao	zao	cao	sao
ou	—	pou	mou	fou	dou	tou	nou	lou	gou	kou	hou	—	—	—	zhou	chou	shou	rou	zou	cou	sou
an	ban	pan	man	fan	dan	tan	nan	lan	gan	kan	han	—	—	—	zhan	chan	shan	ran	zan	can	san
en	ben	pen	men	fen	den	—	nen	—	gen	ken	hen	—	—	—	zhen	chen	shen	ren	zen	cen	sen
ang	bang	pang	mang	fang	dang	tang	nang	lang	gang	kang	hang	—	—	—	zhang	chang	shang	rang	zang	cang	sang
eng	beng	peng	meng	feng	deng	teng	neng	leng	geng	keng	heng	—	—	—	zheng	cheng	sheng	reng	zeng	ceng	seng
ong	—	—	—	—	dong	tong	nong	long	gong	kong	hong	—	—	—	zhong	chong	—	rong	zong	cong	song

Most-confused pair — drill these first
 Not a valid Mandarin syllable
 Standard syllable



Hear every pinyin syllable — native pronunciation, instantly

Tap any syllable on the resource page to hear native audio (Microsoft Xiaoxiao neural). Includes drill-mode for the most-confused initial pairs (zh/z, ch/c, sh/s).

willychina.com/resources/pinyin-chart/

02 The 4 tones + neutral

Every Mandarin syllable carries a tone — the same syllable with a different tone is a different word. Master these five contours and your spoken Mandarin instantly sounds correct.

TONE 1	TONE 2	TONE 3	TONE 4	NEUTRAL
ā	á	ǎ	à	a
High flat	Rising	Dipping	Falling	No mark
mā 妈 mother	má 麻 hemp	mǎ 马 horse	mà 骂 scold	ma 吗 question

03 Most-confused initial pairs

<p>zh · z</p> <p>zh = tongue curled back (English "j" in jam, no voicing). z = flat tongue, like "ds" in "kids".</p>	<p>ch · c</p> <p>ch = curled-back "ch" (no English equivalent). c = "ts" sound, like "cats".</p>	<p>sh · s</p> <p>sh = curled-back "sh" (like "she"). s = flat "s" as in English "say".</p>
<p>j · zh</p> <p>j = tongue forward, flat — soft. zh = tongue curled back, harder.</p>	<p>x · sh</p> <p>x = soft "sh" with tongue forward. sh = curled-back, more "shh-r" sound.</p>	<p>u · ü</p> <p>u = "oo" in English "food". ü = round your lips for "oo" but try to say "ee".</p>

How to practise this chart

- Print the chart and stick it where you'll see it daily — fridge, study wall, behind your laptop.
- Drill 5 syllables per day with audio (apps like Pleco or HelloChinese have native recordings).
- Always practise with tones — never pinyin alone. Tones are 50% of meaning.
- Record yourself and compare to native audio. Most learners think they sound closer than they do.
- After two weeks of daily drill, you should be able to read pinyin from any Mandarin sentence.



FROM THE WILLYCHINA RESOURCE LIBRARY

Want a real teacher to walk you through this?

PDFs only go so far. The fastest way to nail pinyin and tones is having a native Mandarin speaker listen and correct you in real time. WillyChina pairs you with native and professional Mandarin teachers — book a free 15-minute intro lesson and see if it's a fit.

[Book a Free Intro Lesson →](#)

MORE MANDARIN RESOURCES FROM WILLYCHINA

01

Mandarin Tones Cheatsheet

willychina.com/resources/mandarin-tones-cheatsheet

02

HSK 1 Vocab List

willychina.com/resources/hsk-1-vocabulary-list

03

Chinese Numbers 1–100

willychina.com/resources/chinese-numbers-1-100