

*Initials and Simple Finals*  
声母和单韵母

The syllable is generally regarded as the major phonetic unit in Chinese. It is made up of an initial, a final and a tone.

汉语的语音单位是音节，音节由声母、韵母、声调组成。

1. Initial 声母

The consonant that begins a syllable is called an initial. There are 21 in all. (International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) equivalents are in parentheses.)

一个音节开头的辅音叫做声母。声母一共有21个(方括号内是国际音标)：

b [p]	p [p']	m [m]	f [f]
d [t]	t [t']	n [n]	l [l]
z [ts]	c [ts']	s [s]	
zh [tʂ]	ch [tʂ']	sh [ʂ]	r [ʐ]
j [tɕ]	q [tɕ']	x [ç]	
g [k]	k [k']	h [x]	

Syllables without beginning consonants are called zero initial consonants. E.g., a, ou, en, ê.

开头没有辅音的音节叫零声母音节。例如：a, ou, en, ê.

2. Single vowel finals 单韵母

What follows the initial is called the final. Finals with but one vowel are called simple finals, and there are seven of them:

一个音节中声母后边的部分是韵母。只有一个元音的韵母叫单韵母。单韵母一共有七个：

a[a] o[o] e[ə] ê[ɛ] i[i] u[u] ü[y]

### 3. Spelling conventions (1)

拼写规则 (1)

The standard spelling (romanization) of Putonghua is called *pinyin*. (See complete table at pronunciation lesson 8.)

(1) When i, u or ü stand alone as syllables, they are written yi, wu and yu:

i、u、ü 自成音节时，要写成 yi、wu、yu，即：

i → yi

u → wu

ü → yu

Note additional examples in this category in pronunciation Lesson 2 at 3.2.

(2) When ü appears after j, q or x, the umlaut or double dot diacritic over the ü is not written.

ü 出现在 j、q、x 后面时，要略去上面的两点，如：

jü → ju

qü → qu

xü → xu

## 练习

1. Read these initials. Note that your instructor or the tape will add vowels in each case. This is the standard manner in which these initials are read in China.

读下面的声母：

b(o)    p        m        f

d(e)    t        n        l

z(i)    c        s

zh(i)   ch       sh       r

j(i)    q        x

g(e)    k        h

2. Read the following finals:

读下面的韵母：

(1) a        e,        e        a

(2) a        o,        o        a

(3) e        o,        o        e

(4) e        ê,        ê        e

(5) i        u,        u        i

(6) i        ü,        ü        i

(7) u        ü,        ü        u

3. Read the following syllables:

读下面的音节：

bo        po        mo        fo

de        te        ne        le

ge        ke        he

ji        qi        xi

yi        wu        yu

4. Distinguish between the following consonants:

分辨下面各组声母的发音：

{ z	{ c	{ s
{ j	{ q	{ x
{ zh	{ ch	{ sh
{ j	{ q	{ x
{ zh	{ ch	{ sh

## 5. Read and practice spelling the items below:

拼读下表：

	a	o	e	i	u	ü
b	ba	bo		bi	bu	
p	pa	po		pi	pu	
m	ma	mo		mi	mu	
f	fa	fo			fu	
d	da		de	di	du	
t	ta		te	ti	tu	
n	na		ne	ni	nu	nü
l	la		le	li	lu	lǜ
z	za		ze		zu	
c	ca		ce		cu	
s	sa		se		su	
zh	zha		zhe		zhu	
ch	cha		che		chu	
sh	sha		she		shu	
r			re		ru	
j				ji		ju
q				qi		qu
x				xi		xu
g	ga		ge		gu	
k	ka		ke		ku	
h	ha		he		hu	