

# PINYIN WORKSHOP

## Session 1: Pronunciation

### Initials (Consonants):

	Unaspirated Stops	Aspirated Stops	Nasals	Fricatives	Voiced Continuants
Labials	b	p	m	f	w
Alveolars	d	t	n		l
Dental Sibilants	z	c		s	
Retroflexes	zh	ch		sh	r
Palatals	j	q		x	y
Glottals	g	k		h	

### Simple Finals (Vowels):

	Front	Middle	Back
High	i / ü		u
Mid-high			e / o
Mid			
Mid-low			
Low		a	

### Complex Finals (Diphthongs):

	-a	-e	-i	-o	-u
a-			ai	ao	
e-			ei		
i-	ia	ie			
o-					ou
u-	ua			uo	
ü-		üe			

### Complex Finals (Triphthongs):

	-ao	-ou	-ai	-ei
i-	iao	i(o)u		
u-			uai	u(e)i

## A Few Rules

- There are only four possible structures:
  - 1) **V** (ex: a)
  - 2) **CV** (ex: na, nao)
  - 3) **VC**, (ex: an)
  - 4) **CVC(c)** (ex: nan, nian, niang)
- The final consonant is limited to either **n** or **ng**.
- **ü** naturally disappears after **j, q, x**, and **y**.
- **ü** only exists in the following: **nü, nüe, lü, lüe**.
- **i** disappears when **y** is **initial** and has a **complex final**.
- **u** disappears when **w** is **initial** and has a **complex final**.
- **iou** and **uei** become **iu** and **ui** when **initialized** (ex: diou → diu, kuei → kui)

## Practice simple finals:

1. b, p, m, f

ba	bi	bu	bo
pa	pi	pu	po
ma	mi	mu	mo
fa		fu	fo

4. j, q, x

ji	ju
qi	qu
xi	xu

2. d, t, n, l

da	di	du	de	
ta	ti	tu	te	
na	ni	nu	ne	nü
la	li	lu	le	lü
an	in	en	on	un

5. z, c, s

za	zu	ze	zi
ca	cu	ce	ci
sa	su	se	si

3. g, k, h

ge	gu	ga
ke	ku	ka
he	hu	ha

6. zh, ch, sh, r

zha	zhu	zhe	zhi
cha	chu	che	chi
sha	shu	she	shi
	ru	re	ri

**Practice Compound Finals:**

ai	ei	ao	ou					
an	en	ang	eng	ong				
ia	iao	ie	iu*	ian	in	iang	ing	iong
ua	uo	uai	ui**	uan	un***	uang		
üe								
er								

<p>* The main vowel <b>o</b> is omitted in <b>iu</b> (<b>iu = iou</b>)          ** The main vowel <b>e</b> is omitted in <b>ui</b>          *** The main vowel <b>e</b> is omitted in <b>un</b> (<b>un = uen</b>).</p>
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1. ai, ei, ao, ou

pai	pei	pao	
lai	lei	lao	lou
gai	gei	gao	gou
cai	mei	sao	shou

4. ua, uo, uai, ui, uan, un, uang

shua	shuo	shuai	shui
shuan		shun	shuang
wa	wo	wai	wan
wang	zhua	zhuo	zhuai
zhui	zhuai	zhun	zhuang

2. an, en, ang, eng, ong

dan	den	dang	deng	dong
chan	chen	chang	cheng	chong
fan	fen	fang	feng	
pan	pen	pang	peng	

5. ü, üe

nü	nüe
lǜ	lüe

3. ia, iao, ie, iu, ian, in, iang, ing, iong

jia	jie	qia	qie
xia	xie	ya	ye
xian	xiang	qian	qiang
jian	jiang	yan	yang
bin	bing	pin	ping
jin	jing	yin	ying
xiu	xiong	you	yong
zhao	jiao	shao	xiao
chao	qiao	ao	yao
chan	qian	shan	xian
zhan	jian	an	yan
zhang	jiang	shang	xiang
chang	qiang	an	yang

6. er

er
ge + er = ger
hua + er = huar
vs.
er + zi
ying + er