

3.13 Sounds and Pinyin

3.13.1 Tone combos (the last three sets)

13	14	15
kāfēi	bù nán	Táiwān
fēijī	dàxué	Chéngdū
cāntīng	shùxué	zuótiān

3.13.2 Initials

Recall your initials chart, and the complementary distribution of initial and rhymes for rows 3 and 4 on the one hand, and 5 on the other:

3,4	-i is never 'ee'	-u is 'oo', never 'yu'
	zì zhì	zū (zūn...) zhū (zhūn...)
	cì chì	cū (cūn...) chū (chūn...)
	sì shì	sū (sūn...) shū (shūn...)
	rì	rú (rún...)
5	-i is 'ee only'	-u is 'yu' never 'oo'
	jì (jiē, jiān...)	jū (juē, juān...)
	qì (qiē, qiān...)	qū (quē, quān...)
	xì (xiē, xiān...)	xū (xué, xuān...)

Exercise 11.

a) Write lines 3, 4, and 5 of your initial chart (z, c, s etc.) on a small sheet of paper, one for every three students. Then, as your teacher recites the list of words twice, determine by consensus which initial is involved:

[Samples: xie, chu, xi, qu, su, shu, zhun, jun, xian, ci, shuai, xu, cai, shi, xi, shun etc.]

b) By column, read aloud the following sets

yī	èr	sān	sì	wǔ	liù	qī	bā	jiǔ	shí
dou	zh!uo	gou	tuo	lou	po	zou	sh!uo	r!ou	mo
duo	zh!ou	guo	tou	luo	pou	zuo	sh!ou	r!uo	mou

Notice that row-5 initials do not appear in this exercise; why is that?

c) Practice reading the following sets aloud:

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-------|---|-------|---|------|---|------|---|-------|
| 1) | rè | > | lè | > | hé | > | è | > | kě. |
| 2) | rén | > | bèn | > | hěn | > | gēn | > | mén. |
| 3) | mèng | > | lěng | > | pèng | > | gèng | > | fēng. |
| 4) | zhāng | > | cháng | > | pàng | > | tàng | > | ràng. |
| 5) | hǎo | > | zhào | > | pǎo | > | mǎo | > | zǎo. |
| 6) | xiè | > | bié | > | jiè | > | tiē | > | liè. |
| 7) | lèi | > | bēi | > | méi | > | fēi | > | zéi. |
| 8) | lái | > | tài | > | mǎi | > | pái | > | zài |

3.14 Summary

Numbers	yībǎiwàn (~ yībǎiwàn)
M-words	yì bēi chá; yí ge bēizi
Nationality	Nǐ shì nǐ guó rén? Tā shì cóng shénme dìfang lái de?
Miles away	Jīchǎng lí wǒ jiā zhǐ yǒu sān lǐ <lù>.
NSEW	Běijīng zài Zhōngguó běibīānr; Wúhàn zài zhōngbù. Yuènnán zài Zhōngguó de nánbiānr.
Confirmation	Nǐ shì dì-yī ma? / Shì de; Tā bú shì Měiguó rén ba. / Shì. Jīntiān shì hěn rè!
Tag-Qs	Nǐ de sǎn, shì bu shì?
Thanks	Xièxie. / Bié kèqì.
Sorry	Duìbuqǐ. / Méi guānxi.
Refusal	Hē yìdiǎnr shénme? / Bú yòng le, hái hǎo.
Don't forget	Nǐ de sǎn, bié wàng le.
Why?	Wèishénme hěn máng? / Yīnwèi yǒu hěn duō kǎoshì.
Lots of	Zhōngwén zuòyè hěn duō; Zhōngwén yǒu hěn duō zuòyè.
How many?	Yǒu duōshao xuéshēng? Jǐ ge lǎoshī? Duōshao qián? / Liǎng kuài.
Prices	Píngguǒ duōshao qián yì jīn?
Telephone	Nǐ de diànhuà shì duōshao?
Week days	Lǐbàiwǔ méiyǒu kè.
Siblings	Yǒu xiōngdì-jíemèi ma?
All together	Yìgòng yǒu/shàng/xiū jǐ mén kè?
Classes	Jīntiān hái yǒu jǐ táng kè?
Any	Méi shénme wèntí.
Other	Hái yǒu shénme biéde kè?

Exercise 12.

Distinguishing words. Read each row aloud, then provide a distinguishing phrase for each word, eg, for the first set: Wǒ bù *shūfu*; Gāo *shīfu*, hǎo; *Shùxué* hěn nán ba.

1.	shūfu	shīfu	shùxué	shūbāo
2.	lǎoshī	kǎoshì	lishǐ	kěshi
3.	gōngkè	kèqi	yígòng	gōnglǐ
4.	xīngqīyī	xīngqījǐ	xínglǐ	xìng Lǐ
5.	měitiān	tiānqì	zìdiǎn	tǐng hǎo
6.	zàijiàn	zuìjìn	jǐnzhāng	zài zhèr
7.	qián	xiānsheng	hǎoxiàng	xuésheng
8.	xìng	xíng	xínglǐ	qǐng
9.	xiànzài	xǐzǎo	zǒngshi	hǎochī
10.	búguò	bú guì	bù gāo	bǐjiào
11.	cóngqián	cāntīng	gōngjīn	gāodiǎn
12.	qùguo	chīguo	qí ge	kèqi

3.15 Rhymes and Rhythms

Heads up!

Dàtóu, dàtóu,
xiàiyǔ, bù chóu;
biérén yǒu sǎn,
wǒ yǒu dà tóu.

Big-head, big-head,
falls rain, not worry;
other-people have umbrella,
I have big head.

Sheila Yong, from Boston University, made up an equally good – or better – version:

Tūtóu, tūtóu,
dà fēng, bù chóu;
biérén luàn fà,
wǒ béng shūtóu!

Bald-head, bald-head,
big wind, not worry;
other-people messy hair,
I no-need comb-head!

On the money!

Sānlúncā, pǎo+de kuài,
shàngmiàn zuò <yí> ge lǎo tàitai;
yào wǔ máo, gěi yí kuài,
nǐ shuō qíguài bù qíguài?

3-wheel-vehicle, runs+DE fast,
top-side sits old woman;
[driver] wants 5 dimes, [she] gives a dollar,
you say strange or not?

Appendix: Countries and nationalities

Addition of rén to the country name regularly gives the name of the person from that country.

Countries (Guójiā)

China	Zhōngguó	Taiwan	Táiwān
Singapore	Xīnjiāpō	Japan	Rìběn
Indonesia	Yinní	Vietnam	Yuènnán
Thailand	Tàiguó	Burma=Myanmar	Miǎndiàn
India	Yìndù	Pakistan	Bājīstān
Bangladesh	Mèngjiālā	(S) Korea	Hánguó
(N.) Korea	Cháoxiǎn	Philippines	Fēilǚbīn
Ireland	Ài'ěrlán	USA	Měiguó
Canada	Jiānádà	Mexico	Mòxīgē
Brazil	Bāxī	Argentina	Āgēntíng
Australia	Àodàlià	New Zealand	Xīn Xīlán
South Africa	Nánfēi	Nigeria	Nírìlià
Egypt	Āijí	Iran	Yīlǎng
Afghanistan	Āfùhàn	England/UK	Yīngguó
Spain	Xībānyá	Germany	Déguó
Italy	Yídàlì	France	Fǎguó (some: Fàguó)
Russia	Éguó (some: Èguó)	Greece	Xīlǎ
Israel	Yǐsèliè	Iraq	Yīlǎkè

Cities (chéngshì)

Shanghai	Shànghǎi	Hong Kong	Xiānggǎng
Beijing	Běijīng	Shenyang	Shěnyáng
Canton	Guǎngzhōu	Shenzhen	Shēnzhèn
Beidaihe	Běidàihé (a resort on the coast near Beijing)		
Qingdao	Qīngdǎo	Tianjin	Tiānjīn
Chungking	Chóngqìng	Si-an	Xī'ān
Nanking	Nánjīng	Kunming	Kūnmíng
Gweilin	Guílín	Lhasa	Lāsà
Tokyo	Dōngjīng	Osaka	Dàbǎn
Seoul	Hànchéng ~ Shǒu'ěr	Jakarta	Yǎjiādá
Kuala Lumpur	Jílóngpō	Bangkok	Màngǔ
Hanoi	Hénèi	Saigon	Xīgòng
Delhi	Délǐ	Calcutta	Jiā'ěrgēdā
Manila	Mǎnílā	Dacca	Dákǎ
Mumbai/Bombay	Mèngmǎi	Baghdad	Bāgédá
Boston	Bōshìdùn	Chicago	Zhījiāgē
New York	Niǔ Yuē	Philadelphia	Fèichéng
Washington	Huáshèngdùn	San Francisco	Jiùjīnshān
Los Angeles	Luòshānjī	Salt Lake City	Yánhúchéng

Houston	Xiū ~ Háosīdùn	Dallas	Dálāsī
London	Lúndūn	Manchester	Mànchèsītè
Glasgow	Gèlāsēgē	Belfast	Bèi'ěrfāsītè
Dublin	Dūbólin	Paris	Bālí
Rome	Luómǎ	Athens	Yádiǎn
Cairo	Kāiluó	Tel Aviv	Tèlāwéifū
Sydney	Xīní	Perth	Bōsī

Notes on country and city names

Korea. The PRC calls (North) Korea Cháoxiǎn, while Taiwan and overseas communities call (South) Korea Hánguó. Cháoxiǎn is a Chinese version of what is usually rendered Choson in English, the name of the dynasty that came to an end in 1910. Hán (distinct from falling toned Hàn of Hànrén ‘Chinese’) is also a traditional name, historically applied to ‘states’ on the south and western parts of the Korean peninsula. In the past, the name Gāoli was also applied, based on the same root that gave us the name Korea; cf. the Koryo dynasty. Paradoxically, the capital of S. Korea, Seoul, was until very recently called Hànchéng in Chinese – Hàn not Hán; nowadays, Seoul is transliterated as Shǒu’ěr.

San Francisco. The Cantonese name, pronounced Sānfānshì (shì ‘city’) in Mandarin, is obviously a transliteration of the English. The name commonly used in Mandarin, Jiùjīnshān means literally ‘old gold mountain’, a reference to Gold Rush days, when numerous Chinese migrated to California from the coast of Canton province.

Huáshèngdùn. Also referred to in the US Chinese newspapers as Huáfǔ ‘national capital’.

Paris and Bali. If Paris is Bālǐ, you may wonder what the Chinese name for the island of Bali [Indonesia] is. It’s also Bālǐ. The distinction is made by adding dǎo ‘island’ to the latter: Bālǐdǎo. Cf. Hǎinándǎo ‘Hainan Island’ (off the southern coast of China).

Philadelphia. Fèichéng. Chéng is ‘city’ (originally ‘wall,’ a feature characteristic of cities). Fèi is a rendering of the first syllable of Philadelphia.

Tokyo. Dōngjīng, literally ‘eastern capital’; cf. Běijīng ‘northern capital’ and Nánjīng ‘southern capital’.

Russia. Éluósī or Èguó on the Mainland, but often Èguó in Taiwan. The USSR was called Sūlián, ie Sū from Sūwéi’āi ‘Soviet’ + lián meaning ‘unite’.

Canton, Chungking, Nanking, Peking etc. English spellings of Chinese names are not as irrational as they may at first seem. These spellings reflect spelling conventions adopted by the British and probably based on Cantonese pronunciation. In the Wade-Giles transcription, which still has some currency, the distinction between (pinyin) b, d, g and p, t, k etc. was represented as p, t, k and p’, t’, k’, respectively. In common practice, the apostrophes were omitted, hence Peking, Taipei, the Tao Te Ching (the Taoist classic) rather than pinyin Beijing, Taibei, Dao De Jing (the Daoist classic). The name ‘Canton’ is based on the name of the province, Guǎngdōng, rather than the city, Guǎngzhōu.

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21G.101 / 21G.151 Chinese I (Regular)
Spring 2006

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.