



第一步 Dì yī bù: Beginners' Chinese

Pronunciation and tones

You'll now hear six single vowels, known as **finals** in Chinese. Repeat after each sound.

a e i o u ü

Now we'll combine these vowels with some consonants, known as **initials** in Chinese. Note how similar they sound to some English consonants. Repeat after each sound.

ba pa ma fa de te ne le gu ku hu
wo yi

Here are some consonants, or initials, combined with the final *i*. Listen and repeat..

ji qi xi zi ci si zhi chi shi ri

Now for examples of the four tones. Listen and repeat after each group:

- 1 *mā má mǎ mà*
- 2 *tā tá tǎ tà*
- 3 *zhī zhí zhǐ zhì*
- 4 *jī jí jǐ jì*