

Comparing English & Chinese Phonologies

比较英语和汉语音韵

The Chinese Pinyin Writing System 汉语拼音书写系统

Initials				Finals					
B	P	M	F	A	O	E	I	U	Ü
波	坡	莫	佛	阿	窝	鹅	一	屋	鱼
bo	po	mo	fo	ā	wō	é	yī	wū	yú
D	T	N	L	AI	EI	UI	AO	OU	IU
的	特	讷	了	爱	被	水	袄	欧	油
de	te	ne	le	ài	èi	ǔi	ǎo	ōu	you
G	K	H		IE	ÜE	ER	AN	EN	IN
哥	科	喝	—	爷	月	儿	安	恩	音
ge	ke	he		yé	yuè	ér	ān	ēn	yīn
J	Q	X		UN	ÜN	ÜAN	ANG	ENG	ING
鸡	七	西	—	春	云	圆	房	灯	应
ji	qi	xi		chūn	yún	yuán	fáng	dēng	yīng
Z	C	S	R	ONG	IONG	IA	IAO	IAN	IANG
字	词	四	日	冬	用	牙	药	眼	阳
zi	ci	si	ri	dōng	yòng	yá	yào	yǎn	yáng
ZH	CH	SH		UA	UO	UAI	UAN	UANG	UENG
只	吃	师	—	蛙	我	外	碗	网	翁
zhi	chi	shi		wā	wǒ	wài	wǎn	wǎng	wēng
Y	W								
一	屋	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
yi	wu								

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Introduction to Chinese Phonology 汉语音韵学简介

The Chinese language has 23 Initials (B, P, M, F, D, T, N, L, G, K, H, J, Q, X, Zh, Ch, Sh, R, Z, C, & S), and 24 commonly used finals (A, O, E, I, U, Ü, Ai, Ei, Ao, Ou, Iu, Ie, Üe, Er, An, En, In, Un, Ün, Ang, Eng, & Ong). There are 12 more finals which are an important part of the Chinese language; however the finals (long, la, lao, lan, lang, Ua, Uo, Uai, Uan, Uang, & Ueng) are not commonly used.

汉语有23个声母和24个常用的韵母。

The Chinese initials and finals represent a total of 59 basic sounds, but a total of 413 unique sounds can be created by combining the various Chinese initials and finals. Please refer to the Pinyin reference chart below to see all of the syllabic combination that are possible in standard Chinese.

汉语的声母和韵母总共代表59个基本音，但通过组合各种汉语声母和韵母，总共可以产生413个独特的发音。请参考下面的拼音参考表，查看标准汉语中所有可能的音节组合。

Pinyin Reference Chart 拼音参考图表

		Initials																					
		∅	b	p	m	f	d	t	n	l	g	k	h	j	q	x	zh	ch	sh	r	z	c	s
Group	-i	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	zhi	chi	shi	ri	zi	ci	si
	a	a	ba	pa	ma	fa	da	ta	na	la	ga	ka	ha	-	-	-	zha	cha	sha	-	za	ca	sa
	o	o	bo	po	mo	fo	-	-	-	lo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	e	e	-	me	-	de	te	ne	le	ge	ke	he	-	-	-	-	zhe	che	she	re	ze	ce	se
	ê	ê	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	ai	ai	bai	pai	mai	-	dai	tai	nai	lai	gai	kai	hai	-	-	-	zhai	chai	shai	-	zai	cai	sai
	ei	ei	bei	pei	mei	fei	dei	tei	nei	lei	gei	kei	hei	-	-	-	zhei	-	shei	-	zei	-	sei
	ao	ao	bao	pao	mao	-	dao	tao	nao	lao	gao	kao	hao	-	-	-	zhao	chao	shao	rao	zao	cao	sao
	ou	ou	-	pou	mou	fou	dou	tou	nou	lou	gou	kou	hou	-	-	-	zhou	chou	shou	rou	zou	cou	sou
	an	an	ban	pan	man	fan	dan	tan	nan	lan	gan	kan	han	-	-	-	zhan	chan	shan	ran	zan	can	san
	en	en	ben	pen	men	fen	den	-	nen	-	gen	ken	hen	-	-	-	zhen	chen	shen	ren	zen	cen	sen
	ang	ang	bang	pang	mang	fang	dang	tang	ngang	lang	gang	kang	hang	-	-	-	zhang	chang	shang	rang	zang	cang	sang
	eng	eng	beng	peng	meng	feng	deng	teng	neng	leng	geng	keng	heng	-	-	-	zheng	cheng	sheng	reng	zeng	ceng	seng
	er	er	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Group	i	yi	bi	pi	mi	-	di	ti	ni	li	-	-	-	ji	qi	xi	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	ia	ya	-	-	-	-	dia	-	nia	-	-	-	-	jia	qia	xia	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	io	yo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	ie	ye	bie	pie	mie	-	die	tie	nie	lie	-	-	-	jie	qie	xie	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	iai	yai	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	iao	yao	biao	piao	miao	fiao	diao	tiao	niao	liao	-	-	-	jiao	qiao	xiao	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	iu	you	-	-	miu	-	diu	-	niu	liu	-	-	-	jiu	qiu	xiu	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	ian	yan	bian	pian	mian	-	dian	tian	nian	lian	-	-	-	jian	qian	xian	-	-	-	-	-	-	
in	yin	bin	pin	min	-	-	-	nin	lin	-	-	-	jin	qin	xin	-	-	-	-	-	-		
iang	yang	biang	-	-	-	diang	-	niang	liang	-	-	-	jiang	qiang	xiang	-	-	-	-	-	-		
ing	ying	bing	ping	ming	-	ding	ting	ning	ling	-	-	-	jing	qing	xing	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Group	u	wu	bu	pu	mu	fu	du	tu	nu	lu	gu	ku	hu	-	-	-	zhu	chu	shu	ru	zu	cu	su
	ua	wa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	gua	kua	hua	-	-	-	zhua	chua	shua	rua	-	-	-	
	uo	wo	-	-	-	-	duo	tuo	nuo	luo	guo	kuo	huo	-	-	-	zhuo	chuo	shuo	ruo	zuo	cuo	suo
	uai	wai	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	guai	kuai	huai	-	-	-	zhuai	chuai	shuai	-	-	-	-	
	ui	wei	-	-	-	-	dui	tui	-	-	gui	kui	hui	-	-	-	zhui	chui	shui	rui	zui	cui	sui
	uan	wan	-	-	-	-	duan	tuan	nuan	luan	guan	kuan	huan	-	-	-	zhuan	chuan	shuan	ruan	zuan	cuan	suan
	un	wen	-	-	-	-	dun	tun	nun	lun	gun	kun	hun	-	-	-	zhun	chun	shun	run	zun	cun	sun
	uang	wang	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	guang	kuang	huang	-	-	-	zhuang	chuang	shuang	-	-	-	-
ong	weng	-	-	-	-	dong	tong	nong	long	gong	kong	hong	-	-	-	zhong	chong	shong	rong	zong	cong	song	
Group	ü	yu	-	-	-	-	-	nü	lǜ	-	-	-	ju	qu	xu	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	üe	yue	-	-	-	-	-	nüe	lüe	-	-	-	jue	que	xue	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	üan	yuan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	juan	quan	xuan	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	ün	yun	-	-	-	-	-	-	lǜn	-	-	-	jun	qun	xun	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Finals	iong	yong	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	jiong	qiong	xiong	-	-	-	-	-	-		

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Applying the four tones to the 413 syllabic combinations that are possible in standard Chinese results in approximately 1,600 unique sounds that can be created using Chinese phonetics. This is significantly more than the 104 unique sounds that can be create the Japanese phonetic system. But what about English? How many unique syllabic sounds are there in English? Do you think it is more or less than Chinese?

将四个声调加入到413个音节组合中，可以在标准汉语中产生大约1600个使用汉语拼音的独特发音。这比日语语音系统所能产生的104种独特的声音要多得多。但是英语呢？英语中有多少独特的音节发音？你认为它比中国的多还是少？

Questions about Chinese Phonology 汉语音韵学问题

1. How many initials are there in the Chinese language?
汉语里有多少声母？

2. Does the pronunciations of the Initials ever change in Chinese?
汉语中声母的读音有变化吗？

3. How many finals are there in the Chinese language?
汉语里有多少个韵母？

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4. Does the pronunciation of the finals ever change in Chinese?
汉语里韵母的发音有变化吗?

5. Without including tonality, how many unique sounds are there in Chinese?
不包括音调, 汉语中有多少独特的发音?

6. Approximately how many unique sounds are there in the Chinese language?
汉语中大约有多少独特的发音?

7. Which language do you think has more unique sounds, Chinese or English?
你认为哪种语言的独特发音更多, 汉语还是英语?
