

LITTLE PIM

Pronouncing Pinyin Transcriptions

Pinyin, or "spell sound", is the most widely used phonetic spelling of Chinese words. Here is a brief guide to pronouncing the consonants that are dissimilar to English.

B unaspirated **p**, as in as in spit

P aspirated **p**, as in pit

D unaspirated **t**, as in stand

T aspirated **t**, as in top

H like **x**, as in lo**ch** or Ba**ch**

J like **djh**, as in a**jar**

Q like **ch**, as in **cheek**, only with lips spread as when you say *ee*

X like **sh**, as in **she**, only with lips spread as when you say *ee*

C like **ts**, as in **bats**, only more aspirated

R like **zh**, as in **azure**, but with the tongue curled upwards

Tone Chart

The **Accent** indicates the tone for the whole syllable, not only the vowel it is above.

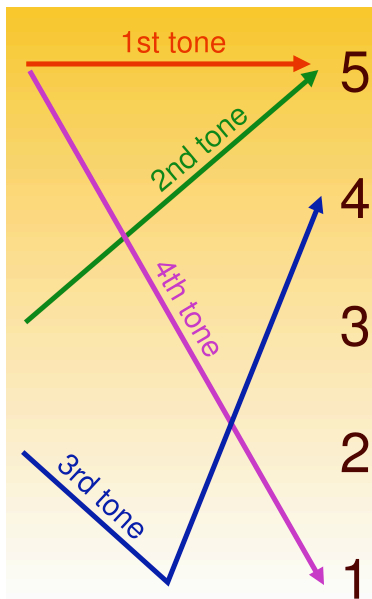
The first tone (¯) is pronounced flat and slightly high.

The second tone (´) goes up, like asking a question.

The third tone (ˇ) goes down and then up.

The fourth tone (˘) goes down like a sharp order, as in a sharp "Fetch!" to a dog.

No tone means neutral, unaccentuated.



For a more complete guide to Pinyin, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hanyu_Pinyin.

