



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

**Note:** a pinyin syllable in bold indicates its vowel sound has a more commonly used variation within the pinyin system (for example: **zi** vs. ni; **yan** vs. ban; **ye** vs. de; **yuan** vs. duan; etc.)



# Pinyin Cheat Sheet

The Chinese Language Institute

While learning pinyin, it is most effective to listen to and repeat each pinyin sound, as opposed to just relying on a key like the one below (for an audio pinyin chart, visit [studycli.org/pinyin-chart](http://studycli.org/pinyin-chart)). That said, the following cheat sheet can be very helpful when conceptualizing and memorizing pinyin sounds.

Pinyin	Approximate sound (based on American English)
a	Like <u>a</u> in <u>mama</u>
ai	Like <u>eye</u> (example: Shanghai)
ao	Like <u>ow</u> in <u>cow</u> (example: Chairman <u>Mao</u> )
an	Pinyin 'a' + 'n'
ang	Pinyin 'an' + 'g'
o	No equivalent (when 'o' is preceded by a consonant, use the 'wo' sound [example: bwo, pwo, mwo, fwo]; the 'o' and the 'uo' sounds are very similar)
ong	Pinyin 'ou' + 'ng'
ou	Like <u>oh</u> in " <u>oh</u> no!" or the English letter <u>O</u>
e	Like <u>uh</u> in <u>duh</u> or <u>u</u> in <u>up</u>
ei	Like <u>ay</u> in <u>bay</u> or the English letter <u>A</u> (example: <u>Beijing</u> )
en	Like <u>un</u> in <u>fun</u>
eng	Pinyin 'e' + 'ng' (like <u>ung</u> in <u>fungus</u> )
i	Like <u>ee</u> in <u>bee</u> or the English letter <u>E</u>
zi, ci, si*	No 'i' equivalent, but the sound is similar to the <u>i</u> in <u>zit</u>
z	Like <u>ds</u> in <u>kids</u>
c	Like <u>ts</u> in <u>cats</u>
s	Like <u>s</u> in <u>say</u>
zhi, chi, shi*	In zhi, chi and shi, like the <u>ur</u> in <u>church</u>
zhi*	Like <u>jur</u> in <u>jury</u>
chi*	Like <u>chur</u> in <u>church</u>
shi*	Like <u>shir</u> in <u>shirt</u>
ia	The <u>bee</u> pinyin 'i' + pinyin 'a' (use the <u>bee</u> pinyin 'i' for all 'i' that follow below)
iao	Pinyin 'i' + pinyin 'ao'
ie	Pinyin 'i' + 'eh' as in <u>education</u>
iu	Pinyin 'i' + pinyin 'ou' (sounds like the English letters <u>E</u> + <u>O</u> strung together)

\*denotes that the vowel sound has a variation within the pinyin system (for example the i in si)



# Pinyin Cheat Sheet

The Chinese Language Institute

Pinyin	Approximate sound (based on American English)
ian	Sounds like the English letters <u>E</u> + <u>N</u> strung together in succession
iang	Pinyin 'i' + pinyin 'ang'
in	No equivalent, but similar to a cross between <u>seen</u> and <u>sin</u>
ing	Like <u>ing</u> in <u>sing</u>
iong	Pinyin 'i' + pinyin 'ong'
u	Like the <u>oo</u> in <u>too</u>
ua	Pinyin 'u' + pinyin 'a'
uo	Pinyin 'u' + pinyin 'wo'
ui	Pinyin 'u' + pinyin 'ei' (example: <u>Guilin</u> ); add consonant and 'ui' sounds like <u>way</u>
uai	Pinyin 'u' + pinyin 'ai'
uan	Pinyin 'u' + pinyin 'an' (like the Spanish name ' <u>Juan</u> ')
un	No equivalent, but similar to a cross between <u>win</u> and <u>woon</u>
uang	Pinyin 'u' + pinyin 'ang'
ü*	No equivalent, but be sure to curl your upper lip
üe*	Pinyin 'ü' + 'eh' as in <u>education</u>
üan*	Pinyin 'ü' + the <u>en</u> in <u>when</u>
yuan*	Sounds like the English letters <u>U</u> and <u>N</u> strung together in succession
ün*	No equivalent, but similar to a cross between <u>win</u> and <u>wean</u>
r	No equivalent, but be sure to curl your tongue up near the top front of your mouth and create a vibration in the front of your mouth while making an 'r' sound
ji	Sounds very similar to the English letter <u>G</u>
q	No equivalent, but similar to 'ch' except w/ your tongue in the front of your mouth
x	No equivalent, but similar to 'sh' except w/ your tongue in the front of your mouth
yan*	Rhymes with 'ten'
ye*	Like <u>ye</u> in <u>yes</u>
wen*	No equivalent, but similar to the English word <u>when</u>

### Additional notes

- When using pinyin to type Chinese characters on a computer or cell phone, nü and lü (e.g., used for "woman" 女 and "green" 綠, respectively), are typed into the keyboard as nv and lv
- Even though the following pinyin combinations use the üan construction, juan, quan, xuan and yuan are written with a standard U, not with the umlaut (ü)