

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 | rū (rūn...) |
| 5 | -i is 'ee only' | -u is 'yu' never 'oo' |
| | jì (jiē, jiān...) | jū (juē, juān...) |
| | qì (qiē, qiān...) | qu (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 | tuó | 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 nánbīānr. |
| 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 kèqi. |
| 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-jīemèi 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 | kāoshì | 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!

| | |
|---|--|
| Sānlúnchē, 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 | Fēilùbīn |
| Ireland | Ài'èrlán | USA | Měiguó |
| Canada | Jiānádà | Mexico | Mòxīgē |
| Brazil | Bāxī | Argentina | Āgēntíng |
| Australia | Àodàliyà | New Zealand | Xīn Xīlán |
| South Africa | Nánfēi | Nigeria | Nírìliyà |
| Egypt | Ājǐ | Iran | Yīlǎng |
| Afghanistan | Āfùhàn | England/UK | Yīngguó |
| Spain | Xībānyá | Germany | Déguó |
| Italy | Yìdàlì | France | Fǎguó (<i>some: Fàguó</i>) |
| Russia | Éguó (<i>some: Èguó</i>) | Greece | Xīlǎ |
| Israel | Yīsèliè | Iraq | Yīlǎkè |

Cities (chéngshì)

| | | | |
|---------------|--|----------------|------------|
| Shanghai | Shànghǎi | Hong Kong | Xiānggǎng |
| Beijing | Běijīng | Shenyang | Shěnyáng |
| Canton | Guǎngzhōu | Shenzhen | Shēnzhèn |
| Beidaihe | Běidàihé (<i>a resort on the coast near Beijing</i>) | | |
| Qingdao | Qīngdǎo | Tianjin | Tiānjīn |
| Chungking | Chóngqìng | Si-an | Xī'ān |
| Nanking | Nánjīng | Kunming | Kūnmíng |
| Gweilin | Guīlín | 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'èrgēdá |
| Manila | Mǎnilā | 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'érfāsītè |
| 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 Huáfū ‘national capital’.

Paris and Bali. If Paris is Bālí, you may wonder what the Chinese name for the island of Bali [Indonesia] is. It’s also Bālí. The distinction is made by adding dǎo ‘island’ to the latter: Bālídǎo. 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 Éguó 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.