



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

Note: a pinyin sound in **bold** denotes that its vowel sound has a more commonly used variation within the pinyin system (for example: **si** vs. **bi**; **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, google “yabla pinyin chart”). That said, the following cheat sheet can be very helpful when conceptualizing and memorizing pinyin sounds.

Pinyin	Equivalent sound (English equivalents based on American English)
a	Like <u>a</u> in <u>m</u> ama
ai	Like <u>eye</u> (example: Shang <u>h</u> ai)
ao	Like <u>ow</u> in <u>c</u> ow (example: Chairman M <u>ao</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)
ou	Like <u>oh</u> in “ <u>oh</u> no!” or the English letter <u>O</u>
ong	Pinyin ‘ou’+ ‘ng’
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: Be <u>i</u> ng)
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>chur</u> ch
zhi*	Like <u>jur</u> in <u>jury</u>
chi*	Like <u>chur</u> in <u>chur</u> ch
shi*	Like <u>shir</u> in <u>shir</u> t
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>edu</u> cation
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	Equivalent sound (English equivalents 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>si</u> ng
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: Gu <u>i</u> lin); if preceded by consonant, sounds like <u>way</u>
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>edu</u> cation
üan*	Pinyin ‘ü’ + the <u>en</u> in <u>wh</u> en
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
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>ye</u> s
wen*	No equivalent, but similar to the English word <u>wh</u> en

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).