

Chinese (Mandarin) Pronunciation and Romanization Quick Reference

Sound	Pronunciation	Notes
a	f <u>a</u> ther	
ai	ais <u>l</u> e	
an	between <u>ca</u> n and <u>co</u> n	
ang	f <u>a</u> ther + <u>si</u> ng	
ao	sauerkra <u>u</u> t	
b	sp <u>i</u> ke	voiceless/unaspirated
c	it's <u>h</u> al	tongue forward (behind lower front teeth)
ch	chees <u>e</u>	strongly aspirated, tongue curled/drawn back
d	st <u>a</u> y	voiceless/unaspirated
e	like British " <u>err</u> "	
ei	ei <u>gh</u> t	
en	chick <u>e</u> n	
eng	lung	
er	f <u>u</u> r (first and second tones), between <u>f<u>u</u>r</u> and <u>a<u>r</u>e</u> (third and fourth tones)	
f	f <u>o</u> x	
g	sk <u>y</u>	voiceless/unaspirated
h	like German " <u>nacht</u> "	
i	mach <u>i</u> ne (after z, c, s, zh, ch, sh, and r, a vowel produced by keeping the initial's manner)	
ia	y <u>a</u> cht	
ian	<i>i + en</i>	not like <i>an</i>
iang	<i>i + ang</i>	
iao	<i>i + ao</i> (yowl)	
ie	<i>i + e</i> (yet)	
in	mach <u>i</u> ne	
ing	<i>i + sing</i>	
iong	<i>i + ong</i>	
iu	unio <u>n</u> (first and second tones), <u>yo</u> lk (third and fourth tones)	
j	watch <u>ch</u> , je <u>ep</u>	voiceless/unaspirated, tongue flat against roof of mouth
k	k <u>i</u> lo	strongly aspirated
l	l <u>i</u> ma	
m	<u>m</u> ike	
n	<u>n</u> ovember	

Sound	Pronunciation	Notes
o	w <u>a</u> ll	
ong	hoo <u>d</u> + <u>si</u> ng	
ou	sou <u>l</u>	
p	p <u>a</u> pa	strongly aspirated
q	ch <u>e</u> ap	strongly aspirated, tongue flat against roof of mouth
r	cr <u>a</u> ne	tongue curled/drawn back
r	After a, o, e, u, ng, add r After ai, an, en, drop final letter and add r After i and ü (after consonants), add er After i, in, un, drop final letter and add er	
s	s <u>a</u> il	tongue forward (behind lower front teeth)
sh	she <u>et</u>	tongue curled/drawn back
t	t <u>a</u> ngo	strongly aspirated
u	r <u>u</u> le	tongue curled/drawn back
ua	w <u>a</u> nder	
uai	w <u>i</u> de	
uan	<i>u + an</i>	
uang	w <u>a</u> nder + <u>si</u> ng	
ueng	w <u>a</u> ter + <u>lu</u> ng	
ui	between <u>w</u> e and <u>w</u> eigh (first and second tones), <u>w</u> eigh (third and fourth tones)	
un	<i>u + en</i>	
uo	w <u>a</u> ltz	
ü	like French " <u>rue</u> ", or German " <u>ü</u> ber"	mach <u>i</u> ne with lips rounded as for <u>oo</u> ze
üan	<i>ü + ian</i>	not like <i>an</i>
üe	<i>ü + e</i>	
ün	<i>ü + n</i>	
x	between <u>s</u> ee and <u>s</u> he	tongue flat against roof of mouth
z	it's <u>a</u> l	tongue forward (behind lower front teeth)
zh	ch <u>e</u> ese	voiceless/unaspirated, tongue curled/drawn back