Webster’s English-Pinyin-Chinese Dictionary, Level One for Beginners Using Traditional Characters

Easy-To-Read Edition for Everyday Practical Use

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Webster’s English-Pinyin-Chinese Dictionary, Level One for Beginners Using Traditional Characters: Easy-To-Read Edition for Everyday Practical Use lists over 100 items (words, phrases, or sentences) useful in everyday living. Each item is listed three times, corresponding to the three sections of the dictionary (English-Pinyin-Chinese). Each listing in each section contains all of the following:

- The Item In American English
- The Item In Hanyu Pinyin
- Easy Pronunciation
- The Item In Traditional Chinese
- Literal Meaning of Each Chinese Character
- Space for Your Own Study Notes/Comments

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INTRODUCTION: WELCOME TO CHINESE
Welcome to Chinese! If you know English and do not know Chinese, but would like to begin to learn, then you have come to the right place! The goal of this book is not to make you fluent in Chinese, but rather to help you begin an exciting, enjoyable journey.

It has been said that the two major world languages at the dawn of the third millennium are Chinese and English. The Chinese and English languages are rather different from each other, however. In terms of their written aspects, there are Chinese characters, on the one hand – but, on the other hand, letters of the Roman/Latin alphabet are used to write English.

The primary method used today to “romanize” or “latinize” Chinese is known as Hanyu Pinyin. It has been said that the QWERTY method of arranging the English letters on your typewriter or keyboard may be better than some methods and worse than others. Nevertheless the QWERTY method of typing is apparently the preferable way to go if you are considering alternative typing methods. Likewise, Hanyu Pinyin versus other methods of learning Chinese. Indeed, China teaches its huge population to romanize Chinese via the Hanyu Pinyin method. For an explanation of how to use the Hanyu Pinyin method to help you learn Chinese, see page 9.
Although the analogy is inexact, we can compare Chinese **characters** to English **syllables**. Chinese characters are composed out of less than 300 elements called **radicals**, and English syllables are composed out of less than 30 elements called **letters**. China today uses **simplified** characters, whereas scholars find it more useful to know the **traditional** characters. One of my friends who lives in a land (Taiwan) that uses the traditional characters has said that if you know the traditional characters, then the simplified characters will present no great obstacle. But if you only know the simplified characters, you will be unable to read traditional Chinese (thus cutting yourself off from a vast, rich history of Chinese literature).

Historically the Chinese people have pronounced the written Chinese characters so differently that they were unable to understand each other. Thus they relied on the written form of Chinese communication. Today the official language of China is **Mandarin**; accordingly, most Chinese today understand Mandarin. Yet even Mandarin is pronounced in different ways. It is Mandarin Chinese that is presented in this dictionary, but obviously it is not feasible to present all alternative pronunciations. In such case, understanding the context of the situation as well as some written Chinese can go a long way. Or perhaps pointing to a page in this book may help.
Now let’s learn more about Hanyu Pinyin. Most Chinese characters have two parts in terms of basic pronunciation in Mandarin: a first part and a last part. Thus, to oversimplify, we can refer to the sounds of Mandarin Chinese as composed of initial consonants and final vowels. Hanyu Pinyin gives us some fallible idea for pronunciation even though the Chinese characters typically do not. For example, cha? [Pinyin for tea] consists of the initial consonant ch and the final vowel a.

In English, most syllables are not stressed. In Pinyin, most syllables are stressed. A stressed Pinyin syllable is stressed in one of four ways:

1. ̣ Even ̣ high (steady and high pitch)
2. ʔ Question ʔ raising (rising pitch)
3. ˈ Hic ˈ cuping (“hiccup”: fall and rise)
4. ǃ Quick ǃ command (fast falling pitch)

NOTE: Words with very different meanings may nevertheless be pronounced identically. In other cases, the pronunciations may be similar rather than identical. “Adding context” to the situation can help. Pronunciation that includes the four tones is one way to add context. On the other hand, it may be that rapid poor pronunciation is easier to understand than slow poor pronunciation. Likewise, using phrases and sentences may be preferable to single words.
## The Initial Consonants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>as in boy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>t as in it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>s as in its</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>ts as in its</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch</td>
<td>as in charm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>as in dad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>as in frog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>as in girl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>as in hurry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>ch as in Bach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J</td>
<td>as in jeep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K</td>
<td>as in kite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>as in look</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>as in mom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>as in now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>as in play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q</td>
<td>ch as in cheese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>as in run</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>y as in yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>ry like the s in pleasure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>as in say</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sh</td>
<td>as in shout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>as in turn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>[not in Pinyin use]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>as in war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>[sometimes silent]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>sh as in sheep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>as in yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>[sometimes silent]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z</td>
<td>as in zoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zh</td>
<td>j as in judge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Some northern Chinese add R sounds even when not present in the Pinyin, and some southern Chinese omit R sounds even when present in the Pinyin.

**NOTE:** An N or NG or R may sometimes be found at the end of the final vowel segment of the syllable. For example, **nong!** [Pinyin for alley] has **n** as the initial consonant segment and **ong** as the final vowel segment.
The Final Vowels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>as in art ‘ah’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ai</td>
<td>as in Taipei ‘I’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ao</td>
<td>as in Tao/Dao [ow as in cow]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>as in her ‘uh’ But ye=‘yeh’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ei</td>
<td>as in Beijing [ay as in bay]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>ee as in bee ‘E’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i o</td>
<td>oo as in look [after C CH R S SH Z ZH]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ian</td>
<td>‘ee-in’ or ‘yen’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ian</td>
<td>‘ee-in’ or ‘yen’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ie</td>
<td>‘ee-eh’ or ‘yeh’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ui</td>
<td>‘way’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>‘oh’ or ‘or’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ou</td>
<td>‘owe’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u</td>
<td>as in superglue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ua</td>
<td>‘wah’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uai</td>
<td>‘why’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uo</td>
<td>‘woh’ or ‘wor’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Four Tones

In English, most syllables are not stressed. In Pinyin, most syllables are stressed. A stressed Pinyin syllable is stressed in one of four ways:

1.¯Even¯high (steady and high pitch)
2. ?Question?raising (rising pitch)
3. VHic Vcuping (“hiccup”: fall and rise)
4. !Quick!command (fast falling pitch)

CAUTION: Hand and body gestures differ in meaning from culture to culture.
Your Own Study Notes/Comments:
SECTION 1: ENGLISH DICTIONARY

PRONUNCIATION NOTE 1: Hanyu Pinyin as simplified and presented in this dictionary gives us only some fallible idea for pronunciation.

PRONUNCIATION NOTE 2: It may be that rapid poor pronunciation is easier to understand than slow poor pronunciation. Likewise, using phrases and sentences may be preferable to single words.

ENG  = English (American Translation)

PIN  = Pinyin (Hanyu Pinyin)

SAY  = Say It (Easy Pronunciation)

CHI  = Chinese (Traditional Characters)

LIT  = Literally (Literal Meaning)
Air conditioning • Heating

kong tiao? • re! qi!

kohng tee-ow • ryuh chee

空調 • 熱氣

air adjust • hot air

Airmail

hang? kong you? jian!

hahng kohng yoh jee-in

航空 郵件

voyage air post article

STUDY NOTES:
**Airport**

**PIN** fei̇ ji̇ chang

**SAY** fay jee chahng

飛機場

**LIT** fly airplane arena

**STUDY NOTES:**

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**Beef steak platter**

**PIN** niu? rou! tie ban

**SAY** nee-oh roh tee-eh bahn

牛肉鐵板

**LIT** cattle meat iron plank

**STUDY NOTES:**
Beef with white rice

niu? rou! fan!

nee-oh roh fahn

牛肉饭

cattle meat steamed rice

Bread (fried bread stick)

you? tiao?

yoh tee-ow

油條

oil strip

STUDY NOTES:
**Eng** Bus station

**Pin** gong¯ che¯ zhan!

**Say** gohng chuh jahn

**Chi** 公車站

**Lit** public vehicle station

**Study Notes:**

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**Eng** Car • Gasoline station

**Pin** qi! che¯ • jia¯ you? zhan!

**Say** chee chuh • j-eye yoh jahn

**Chi** 汽車•加油站

**Lit** steam vehicle • add oil station

**Study Notes:**
**ENG**  Chicken (roasted)

**PIN**  kaoV ji¯

**SAY**  cow jee

**CHI**  烤 雞

**LIT**  roast chicken

**STUDY NOTES:**

---

**ENG**  China • USA

**PIN**  zhong¯ quo? • mei? quo?

**SAY**  johng gwall • may gwall

**CHI**  中國 • 美國

**LIT**  middle country • beauty country

**STUDY NOTES:**
**Coffee with milk**

**PIN**  ka¯ fei¯ niu? naiV

**SAY**  kah fay nee-oh n-eye

**CHI** 咖啡牛奶

**LIT**  coffee  cattle  milk

**STUDY NOTES:**

---

**Credit card**

**PIN**  xin! yong! kaV

**SAY**  sheen yohng kah

**CHI** 信用卡

**LIT**  trust  use  card

**STUDY NOTES:**
**ENG**  Danger • Caution

**PIN**  wei?  xianV • xiaoV  xin–

**SAY**  way  shee-an • shall sheen

**CHI**  危險•小心

**LIT**  danger risk • small heart

**STUDY NOTES:**

---

**ENG**  Do you speak English?

**PIN**  niV  shuo–  ying–  wen?  ma–

**SAY**  nee  shore  ing  won  mah

**CHI**  你說英文嗎

**LIT**  you speak wise word  [question]

**STUDY NOTES:**
Do you understand?

niV dongV ma¯

nee dohng mah

你 懂 嗎

you understand [question]

Dollar • Money • Cash

yuan? • qian? • xian! jin¯

ywin • chee-an • shee-an jin

元 • 錢 • 現金

dollar . money . current gold

STUDY NOTES:
Domestic express mail

Don’t cut it too short

STUDY NOTES:
Don’t have • Have

mei? youV • youV

may yoh • yoh

水饺

Dumplings (boiled)

shuiV jiaoV

shway jow

水饺

LIT no have • have

LIT water dumplings

STUDY NOTES:
**ENG** Egg and flour omelette

**PIN** dan! bingV

**SAY** dahn bing

**CHI** 蛋 餅

**LIT** egg cake

**STUDY NOTES:**

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**ENG** English newspaper • menu

**PIN** ying¯ wen? bao! zhiV • cai! dan¯

**SAY** ing won b-ow jir • ch-eye dahn

**CHI** 英文報紙•菜單

**LIT** wise word report paper • greens list

**STUDY NOTES:**