

# INTRODUCTION TO TONES

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LEARN HOW TO DISTINGUISH THE DIFFERENT TONES IN CHINESE

  
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*How to Learn Chinese Now*

  
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*Course #1*

# WHAT ARE TONES?

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Tones are pronunciation your that is made by the different inflections in your voice. Just think of it as more precise pronunciation. We use this in English, but chances are you just haven't ever thought about it this way before.

# “HUH”

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- the word “huh” is a great example of this. Depending on the inflection in your voice for the word “huh” will greatly change the meaning of the word, although its spelled the same.

# SOME OF THE DIFFERENT MEANINGS OF “HUH”

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“huh” can express various emotions. Here are some examples:

1) it can express you're currently thinking about something

*(said softly and drawn out { - } )*

2) it can express you don't quite understand something when said like huh?

*(said swinging your voice up to show it is a question { / } )*

## SOME OF THE DIFFERENT MEANINGS OF “HUH” (P2)

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3) “huh” can be used to expressed your heard someone, but don't really care.

*(said making your voice sound deeper and more harsh (V) )*

4) it can show enlightenment

*(said more sharp and short { \ } )*

5) it can just show you're acknowledging someone said something.

*(just by saying it, without any intational change) { } )*

# THE TONES IN CHINESE

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The tones in Chinese follow all of the examples of “huh” we just barely covered. You already know how to say all of the tones, you just need to learn how to apply them in other situation.

# TONAL MARKS

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- **What:** Tonal marks indicate how your voice should inflect to say a word properly.
- **When:** Whenever you are reading in Pin-yin
  - Pin-yin is writing out Chinese pronunciations in the ABCs that you're used to.
- **Where:** Although tonal marks look like accents you would see in Spanish, it does not matter which letter they are placed after.
- **Why:** Although many English speakers find them cumbersome, they are needed to make it easier for the listener to understand what you're saying.

# DO I HAVE TO SAY STUFF WITH TONES?

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- There is a way out, if you speak in the 1<sup>st</sup> tone (*the thinking tone, or flatlined heart tone*) you will be understood. Small children when first learning how to speak say all of their words in the 1<sup>st</sup> tone and are understood. You can use this method if your goal is to be able to get around.