

Pinyin cheat sheet

拼音 pīn yīn (Pronunciation)

shēng mǔ

声母 (Initial Consonant)

b	'bore' without 'r' sound	w	woo
p	'poor' without 'r' sound	z	'z' from 'pizza'
m	'more' without 'r' sound	c	't' sound from 'dust'
f	for without 'r' sound	s	's' from 'silly'
d	combine 'd' & the	zh	'j' from 'jerry'
t	combine 't' & the	ch	'ch' from 'cherry'
n	combine 'n' & the	sh	'sh' from 'sherry'
l	combine 'l' & the	r	'r' from 'really'
g	combine 'g' & the	j	say 'gee', but without lips sticking out
k	combine 'k' & the	q	say 'chee', but without lips sticking out
h	combine 'h' & the	x	'see', but without upper and lower teeth clenching
y	yee		

yùn mǔ

韵母 (Final syllable)

a	a in 'arm'	an	English 'an' with wider mouth
o	o in 'orange'	ang	final 'an' plus 'ng' sound at the end
e	e in 'the' / sound you'd produce when seeing something disgusting	en	'un' from 'under'
i	yee	eng	'ung' from lung
u	woo	ong	initial sound from 'only'
ü	'you' but a flatter sound	in	English 'in' with flat and stable tone
ei	letter 'A'	ing	final 'in' plus 'ng' sound at the end
ou	letter 'O'	ian	say 'yan'
ia	ya	iang	final 'i' + final 'ang'
ie	yeah	iong	final 'i' + final 'ong'
iu	yiou	un	final 'u', plus 'n' sound at the end / 'win' from window
ao	owl	uan	final 'u' + final 'an'
iao	yau	uang	final 'u' + final 'ang'
ai	letter 'I'	ueng	final 'u' + final 'eng'
ua	wa	üe	final 'ü' + English vowel 'e'
uo	wore without 'r' sound	ün	'ü' + 'n' sound at the end
ui	way	üan	'ü' + English vowel 'an'
uai	letter 'Y'	er	English vowel 'er'