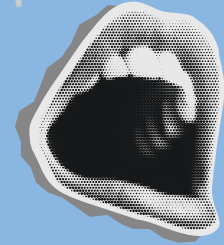


AAAA



1ST TONE — HIGH AND STEADY

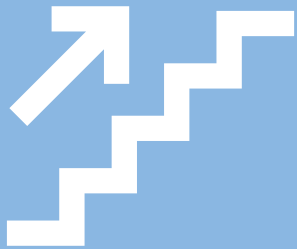
Your voice stays flat and high, without rising or falling. Think of steadily singing a single note or saying "ah" as if responding to a doctor's check-up.

妈 (mā) - mother

三 (sān) - three

花 (huā) - flower

猫 (māo) - cat



2ND TONE / RISING

Your voice starts at a mid-level and rises, similar to the intonation when you ask a question in English, for example, asking "Really?".

谁 (shéi) - who

白 (bái) - white

湖 (hú) - lake

皮 (pí) - skin



3RD TONE ▾ LOW AND DIPPING

The 3rd tone usually stays low and only rises (a bit) at the end. Practice with a low and creaky voice. It's a tricky one :)

马 (mǎ) - horse

你 (nǐ) - you

好 (hǎo) - good

老 (lǎo) - old



4TH TONE \ FALLING AND SHARP



Your voice starts high and drops quickly, similar to giving a command or saying "No!" or "Stop!" in a sharp tone.

骂 (mà) - to scold

是 (shì) - is/are

去 (qù) - to go

大 (dà) - big

CHINESE TONES

QUICK GUIDE



NEUTRAL TONE • LIGHT AND SHORT



The neutral tone is quick, light, and often unstressed. It doesn't have a fixed pitch; it sounds softer than the other tones. It's mostly seen in pairs with another tone.

妈妈 (mā ma) - mother

爸爸 (bà ba) - father

TONGUE TWISTERS

1) sì shì sì, shí shì shí

四是四，十是十

"Four is four, ten is ten."

2) mā ma mà mǎ

妈妈骂马

"Mom scolds the horse."



Tongue twisters can improve your tone agility.