

Mandarin Chinese Initial and Finals: Pinyin Table 1

This is the **first** of four tables illustrating which pairings of initials and finals do occur in Mandarin Chinese and, by omission, which do not. The initial **b**, for instance, may be paired with **a**, but not with **e**, since **ba** is a sound in Mandarin Chinese, while **be** is not. By the way, don't let the great number of sounds you see represented here alarm you. The majority of these are seldom used.

Table 1: Chinese initials (left) and **finals** “a” through “ong” (top).

	a	o	e	-i*	er	ai	ei	ao	ou	an	en	ang	eng	ong
b	ba	bo				bai	bei	bao		ban	ben	bang	beng	
p	pa	po				pai	pei	pao	pou	pan	pen	pang	peng	
m	ma	mo	me			mai	mei	mao	mou	man	men	mang	meng	
f	fa	fo					fei		fou	fan	fen	fang	feng	
d	da		de			dai	dei	dao	dou	dan	den	dang	deng	dong
t	ta		te			tai		tao	tou	tan		tang	teng	tong
n	na		ne			nai	nei		nou	nan	nen	nang	neng	nong
l	la		le			lai	lei	lao	lou	lan		lang	leng	long
z	za		ze	zi		zai	zei	zao	zou	zan	zen	zang	zeng	zong
c	ca		ce	ci		cai		cao	cou	can	cen	cang	ceng	cong
s	sa		se	si		sai		sao	sou	san	sen	sang	seng	song
zh	zha		zhe	zhi		zhai	zhei	zhao	zhou	zhan	zhen	zhang	zheng	zhong
ch	cha		che	chi		chai		chao	chou	chan	chen	chang	cheng	chong
sh	sha		she	shi		shai	shei	shao	shou	shan	shen	shang	sheng	
r			re	ri				rao	rou	ran	ren	rang	reng	rong
j														
q														
x														
g	ga		ge			gai	gei	gao	gou	gan	gen	gang	geng	gong
k	ka		ke			kai	kei	kao	kou	kan	ken	kang	keng	kong
h	ha		he			hai	hei	hao	hou	han	hen	hang	heng	hong
	a	o	e		er	ai	ei	ao	ou	an	en	ang	eng	ong

NOTE

Note that the bottom row without initials signifies Chinese sounds consisting of finals only without preceding initial consonants. Also, * the final **-i** should not be confused with **i** appearing in Table 2. These two finals are pronounced differently and match with different initials.

Mandarin Chinese Initial and Finals: Table 2

This is the **second** of four tables illustrating which pairings of initials and finals do occur in Mandarin Chinese and, by omission, which do not. The initial **b**, for instance, may be paired with **a**, but not with **e**, since **ba** is a sound in Mandarin Chinese, while **be** is not. By the way, don't let the great number of sounds you see represented in these tables alarm you. The majority of these are seldom used.

Table 2: Chinese initials (left) and **finals** “i” through “iong” (top).

	i	ia	iao	ie	iou	ian	in	iang	ing	iong
b	bi		biao	bie		bian	bin		bing	
p	pi		piao	pie		pian	pin		ping	
m	mi		miao	mie	miu	mian	min		ming	
f										
d	di		diao	die	diu	dian			ding	
t	ti		tiao	tie		tian			ting	
n	ni		niao	nie	niu	nian	nin	niang	ning	
l	li	lia	liao	lie	liu	lian	lin	liang	ling	
z										
c										
s										
zh										
sh										
ch										
r										
j	ji	jia	jiao	jie	jiu	jian	jin	jiang	jing	jiong
q	qi	qia	qiao	qie	qiu	qian	qin	qiang	qing	qiong
x	xi	xia	xiao	xie	xiu	xian	xin	xiang	xing	xiong
g										
k										
h										
	yi	ya	yao	ye	you	yan	yin	yang	ying	yong

*The final *i* should not be confused with *-i* appearing in Table 1. These two finals are pronounced differently and match with different initials.

Table 2 finals, when not preceded by an initial, change the **i** to **y**.

Mandarin Chinese Initial and Finals: Table 3

This is the **third** of four tables illustrating which pairings of initials and finals do occur in Mandarin Chinese and, by omission, which do not. The initial **b**, for instance, may be paired with **a**, but not with **e**, since **ba** is a sound in Mandarin Chinese, while **be** is not. By the way, don't let the great number of sounds you see represented here alarm you. The majority of these are seldom used.

Table 3: Chinese **initials** (left) and **finals** “u” through “ueng” (top).

	u	ua	uo	uai	uei	uan	uen	uang	ueng
b	bu								
p	pu								
m	mu								
f	fu								
d	du		duo		dui	duan	dun		
t	tu		tuo		tui	tuan	tun		
n	nu		nuo			nuan			
l	lu		luo			luan	lun		
z	zu		zuo		zui	zuan	zun		
c	cu		cuo		cui	cuan	cun		
s	su		suo		sui	suan	sun		
zh	zhu	zhua	zhuo	zhuai	zhui	zhuan	zhun	zhuang	
ch	chu	chua	chuo	chuai	chui	chuan	chun	chuang	
sh	shu	shua	shuo	shuai	shui	shuan	shun	shuang	
r	ru	rua	ruo		rui	ruan	run		
j									
q									
x									
g	gu	gua	guo	guai	gui	guan	gun	guang	
k	ku	kua	kuo	kuai	kui	kuan	kun	kuang	
h	hu	hua	huo	huai	hui	huan	hun	huang	
	wu	wa	wo	wai	wei	wan	wen	wang	weng

Table 3 finals, when not preceded by an initial, change the **u** to **w**. Also, when the final **uen** takes an initial, the **e** is dropped.

Mandarin Chinese Initial and Finals: Table 4

This is the **fourth** of four tables illustrating which pairings of initials and finals do occur in Mandarin Chinese and, by omission, which do not. The initial **b**, for instance, may be paired with **a**, but not with **e**, since **ba** is a sound in Mandarin Chinese, while **be** is not. By the way, don't let the great number of sounds you see represented here alarm you. The majority of these are seldom used.

And in Table 4, as you see below, the possible initial + final pairings are few in number. Which is a good thing, because I think it would actually *hurt* to say *zūan* or *shūn*.

Table 4: Chinese initials (left) and finals “ ü ” through “ ün ” (top).				
	ü	üe	üan	ün
b				
p				
m				
f				
d				
t				
n	nü	nüe		
l	lü	lüe		
z				
c				
s				
zh				
ch				
sh				
r				
j	ju	jue	juan	jun
q	qu	que	quan	qun
x	xu	xue	xuan	xun
g				
k				
h				
	yu	yue	yuan	yun

Table 4 finals, when not preceded by an initial, change the **üe** to **y**, though the vowel sound does not change.