

# UNIT 1

m

n

f

l

+

a

i

o

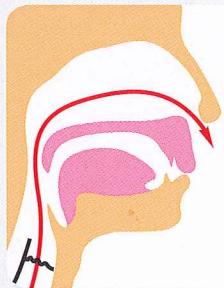


## SIMPLE PINYIN SOUNDS



Track 4

m

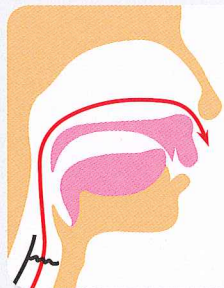


① Shut your lips tightly. Then let air out through the nasal cavity.

② as in *mat*

Ex māma *n.* mother

n

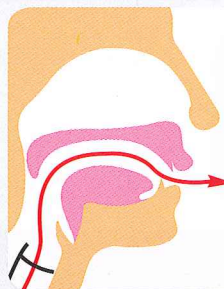


① The tip of the tongue touches the upper ridge of the teeth. Let the air out through the nasal cavity.

② as in *night*

Ex ná *v.* to take

f

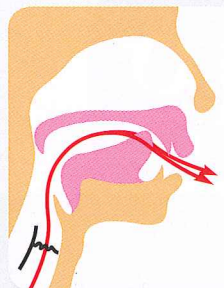


① Press the upper teeth against the lower lip. Let out a breath. The sound relies on friction between the teeth and the lip.

② as in *fat*

Ex fā *n.* hair

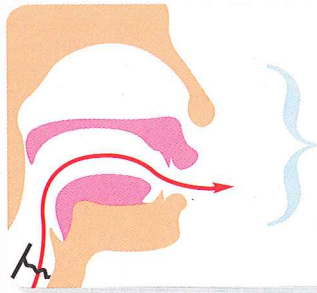
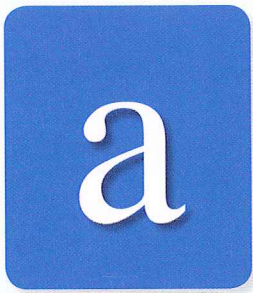
l



① The tip of the tongue touches the back of the upper ridge of the teeth. Let the air out from both sides of the tongue.

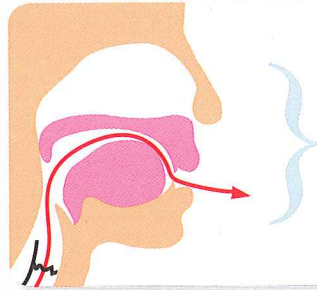
② as in *light*

Ex lā *v.* to pull



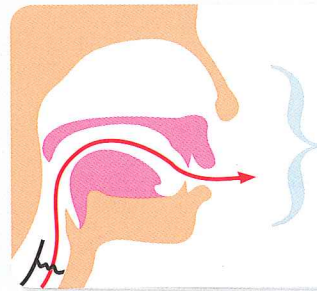
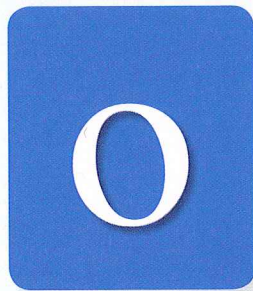
- 1 Open your mouth wide and keep your tongue in a flat, relaxed position.
- 2 as in *father*

Ex bàba *n.* father



- 1 Keep your mouth flat as if you were pronouncing the English letter E.
- 2 as in *eat*

Ex yī *nu.* one



- 1 Make your mouth round and hold your tongue in the middle.
- 2 There is no identical sound in English.

Ex mō *v.* to touch



## NOTES

- 1 The following finals do not combine with the following initials:

Initials	m	n	f	l
Finals				
a				
i			X	
o		X		X

- 2 If there is no initial before **i**, it is spelled **yi**.



COMBINING SOUNDS

Listen to the audio track. Practice pronunciation and tones.



$m + a = ma$   
 mā má mǎ mà

māma *n.* mother

- Wǒ ài māma.  
I love my mom.



$n + a = na$   
 nā ná nǎ nà

ná *v.* to take

- Wǒ ná xīguā.  
I hold a watermelon.



$f + a = fa$   
 fā fá fǎ fà

tóufa *n.* hair

- Mǎ xiǎojiě bāng wǒ jiǎn tóufa.  
Miss Ma helps me to cut my hair.



$l + a = la$   
 lā lá lǎ là

lā *v.* to pull

- Tā wàngle lā chuānglián.  
He forgot to pull the window curtains closed.



NOTES

When we refer to “hair,” there are two different pronunciation ways in Chinese. When we say fà, it is 4<sup>th</sup> tone; however, when we say tóufa, it becomes neutral tone.



$m + i = mi$   
mī mí mǐ mì

bǎomì *v.* to keep the secret

- Qǐng nǐ yíding yào bǎomì.  
Please be sure to keep the secret.



$n + i = ni$   
nī ní nǐ nì

nǐ *pron.* you

- Nǐ shì Měiguó rén ma?  
Are you American?



$l + i = li$   
lī lí lǐ lì

lìqi *n.* (physical) strength, force

- Bàba de lìqi hěn dà.  
My father is very powerful.



$m + o = mo$   
mō mó mǒ mò

mō *v.* to touch

- Zhè jiàn yīfu mō qǐlái hěn shūfu.  
This shirt feels very comfortable.