

Mandarin Chinese 2 Character Tone Drills

As Mandarin Chinese is a tonal language, it is absolutely vital to get your tones correct. Use this document to practice your tones to improve your speaking ability. This document lets you practice all 4 tones in Mandarin, and all 16 tone combinations taking 2 tones at a time: 1 1, 1 2, 1 3, 1 4, 2 1, 2 2, 2 3, 2 4, 3 1, 3 2, 3 3, 3 4, 4 , 4 2, 4 3, and 4 4. For each tone combination, there are 4 different drills you can use to practice.

The data for each drill is shown as follows: first Traditional Characters followed by their corresponding Simplified Characters followed by the pronunciation of the 2 characters, and then finally the definition(s) of the word.

(Dictionary data used from CC-CEDICT)

1 1 tone combinations

一些 一些 [yi1 xie1] /some/a few/a little/
一生 一生 [yi1 sheng1] /all one's life/throughout one's life/
一應 一應 [yi1 ying1] /all/every/
一聲 一聲 [yi1 sheng1] /first tone in Mandarin (high level tone)/

1 2 tone combinations

七十 七十 [qi1 shi2] /seventy/70/
一級 一級 [yi1 ji2] /first class/category A/
三十 三十 [san1 shi2] /thirty/30/
一點 一點 [yi1 dian3] /a bit/a little/one dot/one point/

1 3 tone combinations

三角 三角 [san1 jiao3] /triangle/
一等 一等 [yi1 deng3] /first class/grade A/
一總 一總 [yi1 zong3] /altogether/in all/
一早 一早 [yi1 zao3] /early in the morning/at dawn/

1 4 tone combinations

一下 一下 [yi1 xia4] /(used after a verb) give it a go/to do (sth for a bit to give it a try)/one time/once/in a while/all of a sudden/all at once/
一二 一二 [yi1 er4] /one or two/a few/
一半 一半 [yi1 ban4] /half/
一月 一月 [Yi1 yue4] /January/

2 1 tone combinations

南京 南京 [Nan2 jing1] /Nanjing city
人均 人均 [ren2 jun1] /per capita/
人工 人工 [ren2 gong1] /artificial/manpower/manual work/
人身 人身 [ren2 shen1] /person/personal/human body/

2 2 tone combinations

來年 來年 [lai2 nian2] /next year/the coming year/

何如 何如 [he2 ru2] /how about/what kind of/
來文 來文 [lai2 wen2] /received document/sent document/
全職 全職 [quan2 zhi2] /full-time job/

2 3 tone combinations

人口 人口 [ren2 kou3] /population/people/
南美 南美 [Nan2 Mei3] /South America/
博主 博主 [bo2 zhu3] /blogger/
乘警 乘警 [cheng2 jing3] /police on trains/train marshal/

2 4 tone combinations

乘客 乘客 [cheng2 ke4] /passenger/
傳譯 傳譯 [chuan2 yi4] /to translate/to interpret/
停放 停放 [ting2 fang4] /to park (a car etc)/to moor (a boat etc)/to leave sth (in a place)/
佛寺 佛寺 [Fo2 si4] /Buddhist temple/

3 1 tone combinations

北京 北京 [Bei3 jing1] /Beijing, capital of People's Republic of China/Peking/PRC government/
主播 主播 [zhu3 bo1] /anchor (TV)/
保修 保修 [bao3 xiu1] /to promise to keep sth in good repair/guarantee/warranty/
保安 保安 [bao3 an1] /to ensure public security/public security/security guard/

3 2 tone combinations

旅行 旅行 [lu:3 xing2] /to travel/journey/trip/
九十 九十 [jiu3 shi2] /ninety/
以前 以前 [yi3 qian2] /before/formerly/previous/ago/
主食 主食 [zhu3 shi2] /main food/staple (rice and noodles)/

3 3 tone combinations

你好 你好 [ni3 hao3] /Hello!/Hi!/How are you?/
也許 也許 [ye3 xu3] /perhaps/maybe/
保守 保守 [bao3 shou3] /conservative/to guard/to keep/
保險 保險 [bao3 xian3] /insurance/to insure/safe/secure/be sure/be bound to/

3 4 tone combinations

主義 主義 [zhu3 yi4] /-ism/ideology/
五月 五月 [Wu3 yue4] /May/fifth month (of the lunar year)/
以便 以便 [yi3 bian4] /so that/so as to/in order to/
乳酪 乳酪 [ru3 lao4] /cheese/

4 1 tone combinations

上周 上周 [shang4 zhou1] /last week/
上班 上班 [shang4 ban1] /to go to work/to be on duty/to start work/to go to the office/
下車 下車 [xia4 che1] /to get off or out of (a bus, train, car etc)/
下週 下週 [xia4 zhou1] /next week/

4 2 tone combinations

上回 上回 [shang4 hui2] /last time/the previous time/

上學 上学 [shang4 xue2] /to go to school/to attend school/

上年 上年 [shang4 nian2] /last year/

下回 下回 [xia4 hui2] /next chapter/next time/

4 3 tone combinations

下午 下午 [xia4 wu3] /afternoon/p.m./

上海 上海 [Shang4 hai3] /Shanghai city

下雨 下雨 [xia4 yu3] /to rain/

下雪 下雪 [xia4 xue3] /to snow/

4 4 tone combinations

上月 上月 [shang4 yue4] /last month/

上次 上次 [shang4 ci4] /last time/

上課 上课 [shang4 ke4] /to go to class/to attend class/to go to teach a class/

上載 上载 [shang4 zai4] /to upload/