

Classical Chinese Poems  
CFS of NCCCR, 3/25-5/6/2011

Lesson 1 Introduction to Chinese Poetry

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Schedule

- Week 1, 3/26: Introduction to classical Chinese poetry
- Week 2, 4/1: Poems of Li Bai
- Week 3, 4/8: Poems of Wang Wei
- Week 4, 4/22: Poems of Li ShanYin and Meng Haoran
- Week 5, 4/29: Poems of Du Mu and Wang ZhiHuan
- Week 6, 5/6: Poems of Bai Ju Yi , review and discussion

## 漢字 (hàn zì): sound, character, meaning

- Pinyin (拼音): Romanized spelling of Chinese characters (Sounds, vowels and consonants, and tones)
- Characters: Stroke, radicals, characters
- Meanings

## 漢字 (hàn zì): sound, character, meaning

Pinyin syllable: (initial) Consonant + (final) Vowel+ Tone

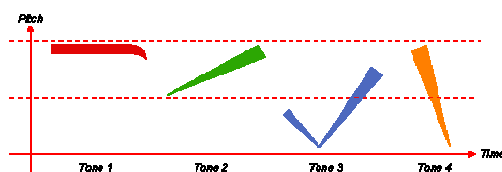
21 Initials (consonants) in six groups

b	p	m	f	d	t	n	l	g	k	h	j	q	x	zh	ch	sh	r	z	c	s
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36 Finals (vowels and compound vowels)

	a	o	e	ai	ei	ao	ou	an	en	ang	eng	ong	er
i	ia		ie			iao	iou (iu)	ian	in	iang	ing	iong	
u	ua	uo		uai	uei (ui)			uan	uen (un)	uang	ueng		
ü			üe					üan	ün				

5 tones



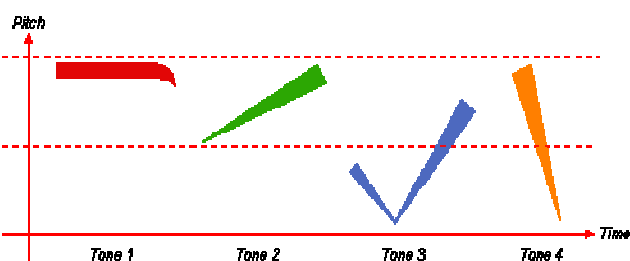
<http://learningchineseonline.net/>

## 漢字 (hàn zì): sound, character, meaning

Pinyin syllable: (initial) Consonant + (final) Vowel+ Tone

Five Tones:

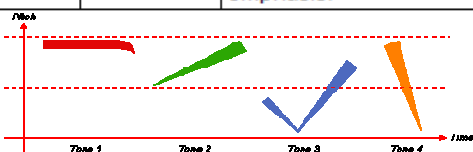
- First (high and level, transcendent, helpful, simplicity.),
- Second (mid and rising, insecure, unsure, questioning),
- Third (falling quickly and rising, mischievous, mean-spirited, illusive),
- Fourth (falling, angry, demanding, impatient) , and
- Fifth (light/neutral/no tone, secretive, deceptive)



<http://learningchineseonline.net/>

## 5 tones

Tone	Name	Description of Tone	Example	Meaning
1st Tone	(yī shēng)	The straight line over the word indicates that the word should be said with a flat and unchanging high tone.	mā	mother
2nd Tone	(ér shēng)	The mark going up above the word indicates the word should be said in a rising tone.	má	to bother or annoy
3rd Tone	(sān shēng)	The down and then up mark above the word indicates that the word should be said with a falling and then rising tone.	mǎ	horse
4th Tone	(sì shēng)	The down mark above the word indicates that the word should be said with a falling tone.	mà	to scold
5th Tone (Neutral)	(qīng shēng)	When a word has no tone or mark above the word it is said to be neutral and is pronounced in an abbreviated manner with no emphasis.	ma	question grammar particle



<http://learningchineseonline.net/>

## 漢字 (hàn zì): sound, character, meaning

It is believed that the inventor of Chinese writing was a minister named Tsang Chieh (cāng jié, 倉頡), who recorded the history in the court of Emperor (huáng dì, 黃帝), the first king of China (~ 2650 BC).

Chinese writing's present form was established in the Qin period (221 to 210 BC) by the first emperor of China (qín shǐ huáng, 秦始皇).



<http://logos.uoregon.edu/explore/orthography/chinese.html>

## 漢字 (hàn zì): sound, character, meaning

There are six principles that are used to define and explicate the Chinese characters:

1. Pictographs: A pictograph is a depiction of a material object.
2. Indicatives: Characters of abstract characters with indicating signs.
3. Ideographs: Ideographs are compounds of two or more existing characters.
4. Phonetic-semantic compounds: Characters consist of a semantic radical and a phonetic radical.
5. Mutual explanatories (Transmissives): Characters share the same semantic radicals and are mutually explainable.
6. Phonetic loans (Borrowed Words): A character which is used in a new meaning on account of its pronunciation.

<http://www.faculty.virginia.edu/cll/chinese/introduction.htm>

<http://logos.uoregon.edu/explore/orthography/chinese.html>

## 1. Pictographs:

	oracle bone jiaquwen	greater seal dazhuan	lesser seal xiaozhuan	clerkly script lishu	standard script kaishu	running script xingshu	cursive script caoshu	modern simplified jiantizi
rén ('nín) human				人	人	人	人	人
nǚ ('nǚ) woman				女	女	女	女	女
ěr ('nǎ) ear				耳	耳	耳	耳	耳
mǎ ('mǎ) horse				馬	馬	馬	馬	马
yú ('yú) fish				魚	魚	魚	魚	鱼
shān ('shān) mountain				山	山	山	山	山
rì ('rì) sun				日	日	日	日	日
yuè ('yuè) moon				月	月	月	月	月
yǔ ('yǔ) rain				雨	雨	雨	雨	雨
yún ('wán) cloud				雲	雲	雲	雲	云

<http://dfludd.com/writing.php>

## 2. Indicatives:

上 下 明

刀 王

## 3. Ideographs:

休 見 囚

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese\\_character\\_classification](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_character_classification)

<http://logos.uoregon.edu/explore/orthography/chinese.html>

4. Phonetic-semantic compounds:

好 媽 注 淋

## 5. Mutual explanatories (Transmissives):

北 → 背

要 → 腰

## 6. Phonetic loans (Borrowed Words):

老 → 考

漢字 (hàn zì): sound, character, meaning

笑 笑 笑 笑 笑 笑 笑 笑  
 笑 笑 笑 笑 笑 笑 笑 笑  
 笑 笑 笑 笑 笑 笑 笑 笑

<http://www.dragonwise.hku.hk/dragon2/schools/archives/morph.php>

## *Shih Ching* (shī jīng, 詩經)

- First collection of Chinese classical poems;
- Poem Scripture (Classic of Poetry);
- The Book of Songs (or The Odes);
- A collection of 305 poems;
- Compiled in Zhou Dynasty (~ 600 BC);
- It became one of Five Confucian Classics.

## Qu Yuan (qū yuán, 屈原, 340-278 BC)

- First famous poet in China

[http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/chinese\\_poetry.htm](http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/chinese_poetry.htm)

## Poems in Tang Dynasty ( 618-907 ) 唐朝 (Táng Cháo)

- The Tang Dynasty was the heyday of classical Chinese poetry;
- More than 2,300 poets and 48,900 poems in Complete Poetry of Tang;
- Great poets: Li Bai, Du Fu, Bai Juyi, and others;
- Poems of social and political situations and conflicts, friendship, sadness and happiness, beauty of the land, both of romanticism and realism;
- Creative, colorful, elegant, diversified;
- Basic forms of Tang poetry are five-character ancient verse, seven-character ancient verse, five-character four-lined poems, seven-character four-lined poems, five-character eight-lined poems and seven-character eight-lined poems.

<http://history.cultural-china.com/en/61History2885.html>

jìng	yè	sī		lǐ bái
靜	夜	思		李 白
silent	night	thought (701-762)		
chuáng	qián	míng	yuè	guāng
床	前	明	月	光
bed	before	bright	moon	light
yí	shì	dì	shàng	shuāng
疑	是	地	上	霜
suspect	be	ground	on	frost
jǔ	tóu	wàng	míng	yuè
舉	頭	望	明	月
raise	head	look	bright	moon
dī	tóu	sī	gù	xiāng
低	頭	思	故	鄉
lower	head	think	old	home



<http://www.iq365.com/shop/article.php?id=1611>