

## **Basic Chinese Pinyin Rules**

### **1.Usage of y and w**

- When there are no initials before finals starting with i, y shall be added as initial. If there are other vowels after i, i shall be changed to y. For example:

ia - ya	ie -ye	iao -yao
iou -you	ian -yan	iang -yang
iong -yong		

- If no vowels after i, just y before i. For example:

i - yi	in -yin	ing -ying
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- When there are no initials before finals starting with u, w shall be added as initial. If there are other vowels after u, u shall be changed to w. For example:

ua - wa	uo -wo	uai -wai
uei - wei	uan - wan	uen - wen
uang - wang	ueng - weng	

- If no vowels after u, just w before u. For example:

u - wu		
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- When there are no initials before finals starting with ü, y shall be added as initial no matter if there is vowels after ü. When y added, ü is changed to u. For example:

ü - yu	üe - yue	üan - yuan
ün -yun		

### **2. Usage of ' mark**

- When syllables starting with a, o, e follow other syllables and may make confusions, ' mark is used to separate

them. For example:

piao 票	jiang 講 / 讲	min ge 民革	xian 先
pi 'ao 皮襖 / 皮袄	ji 'ang 激昂	ming 'e 名額 / 名额	xi 'an 西安

### 3. Abbreviations

- Abbreviations of iou, uei and uen
- When there are initials before iou, uei and uen, they are abbreviated as iu, ui and un. For Example:

niou - niu	guei - gui	luen -lun
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- If no initials proceed, then they still abide by the rules of usage of y and w shown above.

- When initials other than n and l precede finals ü starting with, ü changes to u.

nü - nü	lǔ - lǔ	jǔ - ju	qǔ - qu
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- When uo follows initials b, p, m, or f, u is dropped, resulting in bo, po, mo, or fo.

buo - bo	puo - po	muo -mo	fuο - fo
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- The final er can follow other finals to form retroflexion. In the follow case, er is abbreviated as r.
- When er is attached as suffix to finals a, o, e u, -ng. For example:

bar 把兒 / 把儿	mor 沫兒 / 沫儿	ger 歌兒 / 歌儿	shur 數兒 / 数儿	rangr 瓢兒 / 瓢儿
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- When er is attached as suffix to finals ai, an, en, drop the final letter and er is abbreviated as r. For example:

hair 孩兒 / 孩儿	bianr 邊兒 / 边儿	pianr 片兒 / 片儿
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- When er is attached as suffix to finals i and ü, er is shorted as r.

pir 皮兒 / 皮儿	qir 旗兒 / 旗儿	qur 曲兒 / 曲儿
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- When er is attached as suffix to finals -i, in, and un, the final letter is dropped.

sher 事兒 / 事儿			
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