

RENREN CHINESE 人人中文



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A MONTHLY JOURNAL FOR CHINESE LEARNERS

Chinese Tone Tricks

Tones are of vital importance in Chinese. Depending on the choice of tone, you could be calling for your mother (mā) or your horse (mǎ). Here's a brief introduction on the 4 basic vowel tones in the Mandarin language using the many words that are spelled "ma".

First Tone: ˉ This tone is designated by a straight line over the vowel (**mā**) and is pronounced flat and high like the "Ma" in Mamma.

Second Tone: ˊ This tone's symbol is an upward slant from right to left over the vowel (**má**) and begins in the mid-tone, then rises to a high tone, as if asking a question.

Third Tone: ˇ This tone has a V-shape over the vowel (**mǎ**) and starts low then goes even lower before it rises to a high tone. This is also known as falling rising tone. It's as if your voice is tracing a check mark, starting at the middle, then lower then high.

Fourth Tone: ˋ This tone is represented by a downward slant from right to left over the vowel (**mà**) and begins in a high tone but falls sharply with a strong guttural tone at the end like you are mad.

RCS Announcements

In the afternoon of Oct. 23, 2010, an incident happened between the Ray Chinese school staff and a parent who refused to follow the school regulation about not staying in the classroom when students are having class. The incident was later escalated when both parents of the student lost control of their temper and confronted with the school staff. Lisle police soon arrived and had the situation under control.

The RCS management team wish to send out a friendly reminder that the RCS "Parents' By-Laws" should be strictly followed (especially Article No. 8 and No. 10). No parents are allowed to stay in the classroom without getting the permission from the teacher in class or from the school administration office. All parties involved in any dispute should be refrained from disturbing the students in class. The RCS management will have the police handle the similar incidents in the future.

Your understanding and cooperation are greatly appreciated!

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每月一字

Word of the Month



What's in a Chinese Character
What's in a Chinese Character

qiū

秋 9 strokes

autumn

秋天: autumn

秋千: swing

During the autumn harvest, the grain (禾) ripens under the fiery heat (火) of the sun. Hence: 秋 meaning "autumn". In China, one can see the waste stalks of grain (禾) disposed of by fire (火) after the harvesting and threshing in Autumn.

.Practice Chinese Characters (s) here:

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qiū lè
秋 乐
Autumn Fun
Children's Poem

xiǎo péng yǒu xiàng shàng tiào
小朋友 小朋友 向 上 跳, (jump up)
Little friends are jumping up,
hóng yè huáng yè xiàng xià piāo (drop down leaves)
红叶 黄叶 向 下 飘, (drop down leaves)
Red and yellow leaves are dropping down,
pāi shǒu jiào
小朋友 小朋友 拍 手 叫, (clap hands)
Little friends are clapping hands and shouting,
zhēn piào liàng
红叶 黄叶 真 漂 亮! (repeat)
(open hands and turn body around)
How beautiful the autumn leaves are!

By Grace Lu Lee/©2010



