# 基础一 · Find your first sounds

Chinese Foundations · Vocabulary in context

*Write each word once.* 把每个单词抄写一遍。

| Vocabulary and example | Write it |
|---|---|
| **initial** 声母<br>Initial 声母: the quick launch at the front of the syllable (m in ma). | |
| **final** 韵母<br>Final 韵母: the vowel part that carries the syllable, loud and long (a in ma). | |
| **a map, not English** 地图，不是英文<br>Pinyin letters map Chinese sounds; never read them as English (xi is not zee). | |
| **mother** 妈<br>妈 (mā) mother: high flat first tone, one beat. | |
| **Central; middle** 中<br>中 (zhōng) middle: the heavy curled j starts it. | |
| **peace; safe** 安<br>安 (ān) peace: all final, no initial at all. | |
| **eight** 八<br>八 (bā) eight: b with no puff; p would flap the tissue. | |
| **to fear** 怕<br>怕 (pà) afraid: fourth tone chopping down. | |
| **big** 大<br>大 (dà) big: the d stays still, no puff. | |
| **he; him** 他<br>他 (tā) he: t flaps the tissue, d would not. | |
| **elder brother** 哥<br>哥 (gē) elder brother: first tone, high and flat. | |



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| Vocabulary and example | Write it |
|---|---|
| **thirsty** 渴<br>渴 (kě) thirsty: third tone, dip then lift. | |
| **four** 四<br>四 (sì) four: the thin flat hiss with the tongue low. | |
| **to be** 是<br>是 (shì) to be: the curled fat hiss. | |
| **west** 西<br>西 (xī) west: the smiling hiss, tongue high and forward. | |