

Transcription of Chinese

The Pin Yin method

Book titles and proper nouns in Chinese language have been transcribed into Latin alphabet. Several methods of transcription into Chinese, invented by foreigners exist today. Well known among them being

- The Anglo-Saxon method: **Wade-Giles**, created by Sir Thomas Wade in 1859 and further developed by Herbert Allen Giles.
- The French method: **EFEO**. Created by Séraphin Couvreur of École Française d'Extrême Orient.
- The **Yale** method used in the United States.
- The German method of **Lessing-Othmer**.
- The method **Bortone-Allegra** in Italy.

This list is certainly not exhaustive and surely as many systems of transcribing the Chinese exist as the number of written languages in the world.

To avoid any confusion, we had to make an arbitrary choice of one method among all the existing ones.

We have thus, adopted the Pin Yin romanization system. It was created by the Chinese themselves in the 1950-60s in order to teach the Chinese language to foreigners.

The system has the advantage of being officially adopted to Romanize the Chinese language in mainland China. It is also the method taught in schools to facilitate learning of the language. Thus, Pin Yin seemed to us the most universal system. In any case, most of the above mentioned methods have been abandoned to adopt Pin Yin.

The rules of Pin Yin

It is easy to understand the Pin Yin. One has to go through the comparative tables of Pin Yin, Wade-Giles, EFEO and Yale to rapidly understand its mechanism.

One has to know though, some indispensable rules:

In China, the surname is always placed before the first name.

We would thus write:

Zhang Xinxin *and not* Xinxin Zhang
Zhou Enlai *and not* Enlai Zhou
Ouyang Xiu *and not* Xiu Ouyang
Zhaxi Dawa *and not* Dawa Zhaxi

Syllables in the surname and the first name are not separated by a hyphen.

Gao Xingjian *and not* Gao Xing-Jian
Bai Juyi *and not* Bai Ju-Yi
Zhuge Liang *and not* Zhu-ge Liang

We have decided to separate the syllables in pen names.

Lu Xun *and not* Luxun
Ba Jin *and not* Bajin
Lao She *and not* Laoshe

Religious names, Buddhist or Taoist, will be written in one word.

Laozi *and not* Lao Zi

Mengzi *and not* Meng Zi

Huineng *and not* Hui Neng

We have decided to use the roman transcription for the following two names.

We will thus write:

Confucius *and not* Kongfuzi

Trippitaka *and not* Sanzang

However, you may continue to use the transcription that you prefer. The database will recognise your request and will lead you to a result, that will be written in Pinyin.

PINYIN	Wade-Giles	EFEO	Yale
zhongguo	chung-kuo	tchong-kouo	jung-gwo
a	a	a	a
ai	ai	ai	ai
an	an	an	an
ang	ang	ngang	ang
ao	ao	ngao	au
ba	pa	pa	ba
bai	pai	pai	bai
ban	pan	pan	ban
bang	pang	pang	bang
bao	pao	pao	bau
bei	pei	pei	bei
ben	pen	pen	ben
beng	peng	peng	beng
bi	pi	pi	bi
bian	pien	pien	byan
biao	piao	piao	byau
bie	pieh	pie	bye
bin	pin	pin	bin
bing	ping	ping	bing
bo	po	po	bwo
bu	pu	pou	bu
ca	ts'a	ts'a	tsa
cai	ts'ai	ts'ai	tsai
can	ts'an	ts'an	tsan
cang	ts'ang	ts'ang	tsang
cao	ts'ao	ts'ao	tsao
ce	ts'e	ts'ö	tse
cen	ts'en	ts'en	tsen
ceng	ts'eng	ts'eng	tseng
cha	ch'a	tch'a	cha
chai	ch'ai	tch'ai	chai
chan	ch'an	tch'an	chan
chang	ch'ang	tch'ang	chang
chao	ch'ao	tch'ao	chau
che	ch'e	tch'ö	che
chen	ch'en	tch'en	chen
cheng	ch'eng	tch'eng	cheng
chi	ch'ih	tch'e	chr
chong	ch'ung	tch'ong	chung
chou	ch'ou	tch'eou	chou
chu	ch'u	tch'ou	chu
chua	ch'ua	tch'oua	chwa
chuai	ch'uai	tch'uoai	chwai
chuan	ch'uan	tch'ouan	chwan
chuang	ch'uang	tch'ouang	chwang
chui	ch'ui	tch'ouei	chwei
chun	ch'un	tch'ouen	chwun
chuo	ch'o	tch'ouo	chwo
ci	tz'u	ts'eu	tsz
cong	ts'ung	ts'ong	tsung

PINYIN	Wade-Giles	EFEO	Yale
zhongguo	chung-kuo	tchong-kouo	jung-gwo
cou	ts'ou	ts'eou	tsou
cu	ts'u	ts'ou	tsu
cuan	ts'uan	ts'ouan	tswan
cui	ts'ui	ts'uei	tswei
cun	ts'un	ts'ouen	tswun
cuo	ts'uo	ts'o	tswu
da	ta	ta	da
dai	tai	tai	dai
dan	tan	tan	dan
dang	tang	tang	dang
dao	tao	tao	dau
de	te	tö	de
dei	tei	tei	dei
deng	teng	teng	deng
di	ti	ti	di
dian	tien	tien	dyan
diao	tiao	tiao	dyau
die	tieh	tie	dye
ding	ting	ting	ding
diu	tiu	tieu	dyou
dong	tung	tong	dung
dou	tou	teou	dou
du	tu	tou	du
duan	tuan	touan	dwan
dui	tui	touei	dwei
dun	tun	touen	dwun
duo	to	to	dwo
e	e	ngo	e
ei	ei	ei	ei
en	en	ngen	en
eng	eng	ngeng	eng
er	erh	eul	er
fa	fa	fa	fa
fan	fan	fan	fan
fang	fang	fang	fang
fei	fei	fei	fei
fen	fen	fen	fen
feng	feng	fong	feng
fo	fo	fo	fwo
fou	fou	feou	fou
fu	fu	fou	fu
ga	ka	ka	ga
gai	kai	kai	gai
gan	kan	kan	gan
gang	kang	kang	gang
gao	kao	kao	gau
ge	ke (ko)	ko (kö)	ge
gei	kei	kei	gei

PINYIN	Wade-Giles	EFEO	Yale
zhongguo	chung-kuo	tchong-kouo	jung-gwo
gen	ken	ken	gen
geng	keng	keng	geng
gong	kung	kong	gung
gou	kou	keou	gou
gu	ku	kou	gu
gua	kua	koua	gwa
guai	kuai	kouai	gwai
guan	kuan	kouan	gwan
guang	kuang	kouang	gwang
gui	kuai	kouei	gwei
gun	kun	kouen	gwun
guo	kuo	kouo	gwo
ha	ha	ha	ha
hai	hai	hai	hai
han	han	han	han
hang	hang	hang	hang
hao	hao	hao	hao
he	he (ho)	ho (hō)	he
hei	hei	hei	hei
hen	hen	hen	hen
heng	heng	heng	heng
hong	hung	hong	hung
hou	hou	heou	hou
hu	hu	hou	hu
hua	hua	houa	hwa
huai	huai	houai	hwai
huan	huan	houan	hwan
huang	huang	houang	hwang
hui	hui	houi	hwei
hun	hun	houen	hwun
huo	huo	houo	hwo
ji	chi	ki (tsi)	ji
jia	chia	kia	jya
jian	chien	kien (tsien)	jyan
jiang	chiang	kiang (tsiang)	jyang
jiao	chiao	kiao (tsiao)	jyau
jie	chieh	kiai (kie, tsie)	jye
jin	chin	kin (tsin)	jing
jing	ching	king (tsing)	
jiong	chiung	kiong	jyong
jiu	chiu	kieou (tsieou)	jyou
ju	chü	kiu (tsiu)	Jyu
juan	chüan	kiuan (tsiuan)	Jywan
jue	chüeh	kio (kiue, tsio, tsiue)	jywe
jun	chün	kiun (tsiun)	jyun
ka	k'a	k'a	ka
kai	k'ai	k'ai	kai
kan	k'an	k'an	kan
kang	k'ang	k'ang	kang

PINYIN	Wade-Giles	EFEO	Yale
zhongguo	chung-kuo	tchong-kouo	jung-gwo
kao	k'ao	k'ao	kau
ke	k'e (k'o)	k'o (k'ö)	ke
ken	k'en	k'en	ken
keng	k'eng	k'eng	keng
kong	k'ung	k'ong	kung
kou	k'ou	k'eou	kou
ku	k'u	k'ou	ku
kua	k'ua	k'oua	kwa
kuai	k'uai	k'ouai	kwai
kuan	k'uan	k'ouan	kwan
kuang	k'uang	k'ouang	kwang
kui	k'uei	k'ouei	kwei
kun	k'un	k'ouen	kwen
kuo	k'uo	k'ouo	kwo
la	la	la	la
lai	lai	lai	lai
lan	lan	lan	lan
lang	lang	lang	lang
lao	lao	lao	lau
le	le	lö	le
lei	lei	lei	lei
leng	leng	leng	leng
li	li	li	li
lia	lia	lia	lya
lian	lien	lien	lyan
liang	liang	lieang	lyang
liao	liao	lieao	lyau
lie	lieh	lie	lye
lin	lin	lin	lin
ling	ling	ling	ling
liu	liu	liu	lyou
long	lung	long	lung
lou	lou	leou	lou
lu	lu	lou	lu
lù	lû	liu	lyu
luan	luan	louan	lwan
lüe	lüeh	liue (lio)	lywe
lun	lun	louen	lwun
luo	luo	lo (loue)	lwo
ma	ma	ma	ma
mai	mai	mai	mai
man	man	man	man
mang	mang	mang	mang
mao	mao	mao	mau
me	me	me	me
mei	mei	mei	mei
men	men	men	men
meng	meng	mong	meng
mi	mi	mi	mi

PINYIN	Wade-Giles	EFEO	Yale
zhongguo	chung-kuo	tchong-kouo	jung-gwo
mian	mien	mien	myan
miao	miao	miao	myau
mie	mieh	mie	mye
min	min	min	min
ming	ming	ming	ming
miu	miu	mieou	myou
mo	mo	mo	mwo
mou	mou	meou	mou
mu	mu	mou	mu
na	na	na	na
nai	nai	nai	nai
nan	nan	nan	nan
nang	nang	nang	nang
nao	nao	nao	nau
ne	ne	ne	ne
nei	nei	nei	nei
nen	nen	nen	nen
neng	neng	neng	neng
ni	ni	ni	ni
nian	nien	nien	nyan
niang	niang	niang	nyang
niao	niao	niao	nyau
nie	nieh	nie	nye
nin	nin	nin	nin
ning	ning	ning	ning
niu	niu	nieou	niu
nong	nung	nong	nung
nou	nou	neou	nou
nu	nu	nou	nu
nü	nü	niu	nyu
nuan	nuan	nouan	nwan
nüe	nüeh	nio	nywe
nuo	no	no	nwo
o	o	ngo	o
ou	ou	ngeou	ou
pa	p'a	p'a	pa
pai	p'ai	p'ai	pai
pan	p'an	p'an	pan
pang	p'ang	p'ang	pang
pao	p'ao	p'ao	pau
pei	p'ei	p'ei	pei
pen	p'en	p'en	pen
peng	p'eng	p'eng	peng
pi	p'i	p'i	pi
pian	p'ien	p'ien	pyan
piao	p'iao	p'iao	pyau
pie	p'ieh	p'ie	pye
pin	p'in	p'in	pin
ping	p'ing	p'ing	ping

PINYIN	Wade-Giles	EFEO	Yale
zhongguo	chung-kuo	tchong-kouo	jung-gwo
po	p'o	p'o	pwo
pou	p'ou	p'euo	pou
pu	p'u	p'ou	pu
qi	ch'i	k'i (ts'i)	chi
qia	ch'ia	k'ia	chya
qian	ch'ien	k'ien (ts'ien)	chyan
qiang	ch'iang	k'iang (ts'iang)	chyang
qiao	ch'iao	k'iao (ts'iao)	chyau
qie	ch'ieh	k'iai (k'ie, ts'ie)	chye
qin	ch'in	k'in (ts'in)	chin
qing	ch'ing	k'ing (ts'ing)	ching
qiong	ch'iong	k'iong	chyung
qiu	ch'iu	k'ieou (ts'ieou)	chyou
qu	ch'ü	k'iu (ts'iu)	chyu
quan	ch'üan	k'iuan (ts'iuan)	chywan
que	ch'üeh	k'io (k'ieue, ts'io, ts'ieue)	chywe
qun	ch'ün	k'iun (ts'iun)	chyun
ran	jan	jan	ran
rang	jang	jang	rang
rao	jao	jao	rau
re	je	jö	re
ren	jen	jen	ren
reng	jeng	jeng	reng
ri	jih	je	r
rong	jung	jung	rung
rou	jou	jeou	rou
ru	ju	jou	ru
ruan	juan	jouan	rwan
rui	jui	jouei	rwei
run	jun	jouen	rwen
ruo	juo	jo	rwo
sa	sa	sa	sa
sai	sai	sai	sai
san	san	san	san
sang	sang	sang	sang
sao	sao	sao	sau
se	se	sö	se
sen	sen	sen	sen
seng	seng	seng	seng
sha	sha	cha	sha
shai	shai	chai	shai
shan	shan	chan	shan
shang	shang	chang	shang
shao	shao	chao	shau
she	she	chö	she
shei	shei	chei	shei
shen	shen	chen	shen
sheng	sheng	cheng	sheng
shi	shih	che	shi

PINYIN	Wade-Giles	EFEQ	Yale
zhongguo	chung-kuo	tchong-kouo	jung-gwo
shou	shou	chou	shou
shu	shu	choua	shu
shuai	shuai	chouai	shwai
shuan	shuan	chouan	shwan
shuang	shuang	chouang	shwang
shui	shui	chouei	shwei
shun	shun	chouen	shwen
shuo	shuo	chouo (cho)	shwo
si	szu	sseu	sz
song	sung	song	sung
sou	sou	seou	sou
su	su	sou	su
suan	suan	souan	swan
sui	sui	souei	swei
sun	sun	souen	swun
suo	so	so	swo
ta	t'a	t'a	ta
tai	t'ai	t'ai	tai
tan	t'an	t'an	tan
tang	t'ang	t'ang	tang
tao	t'ao	t'ao	tau
te	t'e	t'ö	te
teng	t'eng	t'eng	teng
ti	t'i	t'i	ti
tian	t'ien	t'ien	tyan
tiao	t'iao	t'iao	tyau
tie	t'ieh	t'ie	tye
ting	t'ing	t'ing	ting
tong	t'ung	t'ong	tung
tou	t'ou	t'eou	tou
tu	t'u	t'ou	tu
tuan	t'uan	t'ouan	twan
tui	t'ui	t'ouei	twei
tun	t'un	t'ouen	twen
tuo	t'o	t'o	two
wa	wa	wa	wa
wai	wai	wai	wai
wan	wan	wan	wan
wang	wang	wang	wang
wei	wei	wei	wei
wen	wen	wen	wen
weng	weng	wong	weng
wo	wo	wo	wo
wu	wu	wou	wu
xi	hsi	hi (si)	syi
xia	hsia	hia	sya
xian	hsien	hien (sien)	syian
xiang	hsiang	hiang (siang)	syang

PINYIN	Wade-Giles	EFEO	Yale
zhongguo	chung-kuo	tchong-kouo	jung-gwo
xiao	hsiao	hiao (siao)	syau
xie	hsieh	hiai (hie, sie)	syé
xin	hsin	hin (sin)	syin
xing	hsing	hing (sing)	sying
xiong	hsiung	hiong	syung
xiu	hsiu	hieou (sieou)	syou
xu	hsü	hiu (siu)	syu
xuan	hsüan	hiuan (suan)	sywan
xue	hsüeh	hiue (siue)	sywe
xun	hsün	hiun (siun)	swyun
ya	ya	ya	ya
yan	yen	yen	yan
yang	yang	yang	yang
yao	yao	yao	yau
ye	yeh	ye	ye
yi	i	yi	yi
yin	yin	yin	yin
ying	ying	ying	ying
yo	yo	yo	yo
yong	yung	yong	yung
you	yu	yeou	you
yu	yü	yu	yu
yuan	yüan	yuan	ywan
yue	yüeh	yue	ywe
yun	yün	yun	yun
za	tsa	tsa	dza
zai	tsai	tsai	dzai
zan	tsan	tsan	dzan
zang	tsang	tsang	dzang
zao	tsao	tsao	dzau
ze	tse	tsö	dze
zei	tsei	tsei	dzei
zen	tsen	tsen	dzen
zeng	tseng	tseng	dzeng
zha	cha	tcha	ja
zhai	chai	tchai	jai
zhan	chan	tchan	jan
zhang	chang	tchang	jang
zhao	chao	tchao	jau
zhe	che	tchö	je
zhei	chei	tchei	jei
zhen	chen	tchen	jen
zheng	cheng	tcheng	jeng
zhi	chih	tche	jr
zhong	chung	tchong	jung
zhou	chou	tcheou	jou
zhu	chu	tchou	ju
zhua	chua	tchoua	jwa
zhuai	chuai	tchouai	jwai
zhuan	chuan	tchouan	jwan
zhuang	chuang	tchouang	jwang

PINYIN	Wade-Giles	EFEO	Yale
zhongguo	chung-kuo	tchong-kouo	jung-gwo
zhui	chui	tchouei	jwei
zhun	chun	tchouen	jwun
zhuo	cho	tcho (tchouo)	jwo
zi	tzu	tseu	dz
zong	tsung	tsong	dzung
zou	tsou	tseou	dzou
zu	tsu	tsou	dzung
zuan	tsuan	tsouan	dzwan
zui	tsui	tsouei	dzwen
zun	tsun	tsouen	dzwo
zuo	tso	tso	