

A NOTE ON PINYIN

Beginning with this module, some rules for pinyin spelling have changed to bring the orthography more in line with that in recent publications from the People's Republic of China. The following guidelines for spelling will be followed in writing new materials as well as in revising the materials published prior to this module.

1. VO combinations of the chīfàn and kànshū type, where the verb and the object are both monosyllabic, are joined together.

吃饭	chīfàn
吸烟	xīyān
上车	shàngchē

But verbs with pronoun objects are written separately.

打他	dǎ tā
骂你	mà nǐ

2. The verb and the object in verb-object combinations with three syllables or more are written separately.

吃中饭	chī zhōngcān
上电车	shàng diànchē
抽纸烟	chōu zhīyān
修理车	xiūlǐ chē
收拾屋子	shōushi wūzi

3. The negative particles bù- and méi- are prefixed to verbs and stative verbs.

不是	búshì
不好	bùhǎo
没来	méilái

4. Only when the possessive de is associated with pronouns is it joined to the preceding syllable.

你的	nǐde
我们的	wǒmende

5. The de in a noun-modifying phrase or clause is written separately.

新鲜的空气	xīnxiān de kōngqì
很好的书	hěn hǎo de shū
他唱的歌儿	tā chàng de gē

6. The de in the shí ... de pattern is written separately.

哪年毕的业?	Nǎi nián bǐ de yè?
哪年毕业的?	Nǎi nián bìyè de?

7. The de that modifies a verb or a stative verb is joined to the preceding syllable. If the modifying string is unusually long, the de may be written separately.

好好儿地	hǎohǎorde
高高兴兴地	gāogāoxíngxíngde
一个月一个月地给房钱	yíge yuè yíge yuè de gěi fángqián

8. The syllables of a resultative verb are written conjoinedly.

看得见	kàndejiàn
看不见	kànbujiàn
跑得快	pǎodekuài
跑不快	pǎobukuài

9. The de that introduces a descriptive complement (manner description) is joined to the preceding verb.

他跑得很快	Tā pǎode hěn kuài.
累得我说不出话来。	Lèide wǒ shuōbuchū huà lai.

10. There are two kinds of le. One kind is a verbal suffix that indicates completion of the action. The other is usually used at the end of a sentence to indicate a change of status. The completion le is joined to the preceding verb in writing, and the change-of-status le is written separately. Sometimes, a le may have both meanings, as in the fifth example below. If so, we treat it as a change-of-status le and write it separately.

吃了饭	chīle fàn
睡了一个钟头的觉了。	shuīle yíge zhōngtóu de jiào le.
他病了。	Tā bìng le.
他好了。	Tā hǎo le.
他来了。	Tā lái le.

11. Specifiers, numbers, and measures are, as a rule, written separately.

这两个	zhè liǎng ge
这三本	zhè sān běn
那四块	nà sì kuài

However, we write yíge, zhèige (zhège), nèige (nàge), něige conjoinedly in accordance with most dictionaries.

12. Tones on individual words are marked according to the Chinese-English Dictionary (Wu Jingrong et. al 1979). The actual tone variations that may occur in the utterance of a sentence are, as a rule, not marked. Some exceptions are listed below.

(a) In a two low-tone sequence, if the second low tone is unmarked because the syllable is unstressed, the first low tone is changed to a rising tone.

所以	suǒyǐ
可以	kéyǐ
小姐	xiǎojiě

(b) The number yí and the negative bù- are marked with rising tones before a falling-tone syllable.

一个	yíge
不累	búlèi

(c) The popular putonghua pronunciations of some words are distinctly different from those given in the dictionary. We have chosen the popular pronunciations and marked the tones accordingly. Listed below are some examples.

一会儿	yīhuǐr (not yíhuǐr)
主意	zhǔyi (not zhūyi)
法子	fǎzi (not fǎzi)
朝鲜	Cháoxiǎn (not Cháoxiǎn)