

WEB SITES

Chinese Tones Teacher

Learn, practice, and perfect the four Mandarin tones in Chinese Tones Teacher! Chinese Tones Teacher aims to help Mandarin Chinese students practice and learn the four tones (Si Sheng) in the Chinese language: flat, rising, dipping, and falling. Many students find the tonal aspect of Mandarin Chinese difficult. This application will help you listen to the tones and repeat them back so that you may see if you're pronouncing them correctly. Before long you'll sound like a native Chinese speaker. You can find it on the Android Market by searching for "Chinese Tones Teacher". Try the demo version to see if you like it first before buying the full version.

Features:

- Plenty of sentences to listen to spoken by a native Mandarin Chinese speaker
- Record your voice and match it to the speakers over and over to perfect your tones
- Slow down your voice or the speakers voice to hear the tones more clearly
- A "Learning" section that teaches you each tone and the rules that go along with them

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<https://www.dropbox.com/> is a free storage site using cloud computing technology. You may have several computers at home and in your office, laptops or iPad, and you have to use a USB drive to store your files and bring this USB drive with you. With Dropbox, you no longer need the USB drive. Just create a free account at <https://www.dropbox.com/> (2G). Download the program for Windows, Mac, Linux, and Mobile (search Dropbox in AppStore). Install them in all your

computers, laptop and iPad. You will have all your files shared across your computers. You may create or edit one file in your home computer. Save it in the appropriate folder of Dropbox. When you go to your office, open the Dropbox, that edited file is already there (synced). You no longer need a USB drive. The Dropbox folders are just like Windows folders. You can create, rename or delete the folders. It's straightforward and easy to use.

Pronounce Names

<http://pronouncenames.com/> is an interesting site where you can find actual pronunciation of various names. For example, there are some names in English which even native English speakers don't know how to pronounce, e.g. San Joaquin, San Jose, etc. Chinese names spelled in English is also a headache. Ng and Xie are two of the difficult Chinese surnames to pronounce for English speakers. The website developed by San Jose State graduate lists more than 80,000 names (for people and places) and it is open to public. One can input a name and add phonetic transcription or upload an audio file.

Talk2China

Cell phone text messaging is widely used in China. <http://talk2china.com/> allows one to send short text messages (in English or Chinese) to Chinese cell phones from anywhere through the Internet. The receivers in China can reply to the text message using their cell phone. They pay the local phone charges only. The replying messages can go to an email address assigned and future messages can be sent directly from this email account or from the website talk2china.com. Registration is required. See the website for rates (about 5-6 cents per message).