

Contents

Preface	<i>i</i>
How to use this book	<i>iii</i>
1. Introduction—Informal (First names)	1
2. Introduction—Formal (Surnames)	6
3. Greetings—Semi-Formal	12
4. Greetings—Formal	18
5. Greetings—Informal	21
6. Nationalities	25
7. Telephone Numbers	33
8. Age	37
9. Buying Fruit	43
10. Time	52
11. Opening Times	59
12. Dates	63
13. Birthdays	68
14. Festivals	73
15. Places	77
16. Taking a Bus	83
17. Have you got ...?	87
18. Going Shopping	96

19. Going to the Market (I) -----	104
20. Going to the Market (II) -----	109
21. Ordering Food -----	117
22. Taking a Taxi -----	125
23. Asking for Directions -----	132
24. Making a Phone Call -----	139
25. Making an Appointment -----	146
26. Getting a Haircut -----	152
27. Booking Theatre Tickets -----	159
Answers to oral and written exercises -----	165
Tapescripts for oral exercises -----	191
Cantonese Pronunciation -----	206
The 19 initials in Cantonese -----	206
The 51 vowel and final sounds in Cantonese -----	207
Tones -----	210

Dai` yāt fo

第一課

Unit 1

Gaai siu` (Yan` méng)

介紹 (人名)

Introduction—Informal
(First names)

1. Vocabulary in context

ngǒ 我	I; me
giu 叫	called; named
něi 你	you (singular)
māt yě 乜嘢	what?
mē 咩	contraction of "māt yě"
méng 名	name
a 呀	particle often put at the end of a question and sometimes a sentence
A 亞	particle often put in front of a single-syllable first name (i) to attract attention (ii) to make the single-syllable name sound better e.g. A Ling ¹ ; A Tim and often becomes part of the name
hóu 好	good; well, ㄛㄛ

2. Dialogue

A



Ngǎ giu A Tím.
Něi giu mē (māt yě) méng a?
我叫亞添。

你叫咩(乜嘢)名呀?

My name's Tim.
What's your name?



Ngǎ giu A Ling¹.

我叫亞玲。

My name's Ling.



A Ling¹, něi hóu!

亞玲, 你好!

How do you do, Ling!



Něi hóu!

你好!

How do you do!



B



3. Vocabulary bank

Some common Chinese names:

Men's Names

Tim—添

Sing¹—成

Ming¹—明

Tseūng—昌

Bān—彬

Wái—偉

Wing¹—榮

Man¹—文

Hoong¹—雄

Tsiū—超

Fāi—輝

Hou¹—豪

Wa¹—華

Gwōng—光

Leung¹—良

Sān—新

Women's Names

Ling¹—玲

Sāan—珊

Fōng—芳

Měi—美

Lam¹—琳

Dzān—珍

Yi¹—儀

Dzi—芝

Mǎn—敏

Ping¹—萍

Lai¹—麗

King¹—瓊

Dzīng—貞

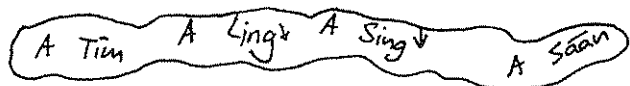
Yīng—英

Fān—芬

Dzūe—珠

4. Exercises

- ☐☐ (1) Listen to the 3 conversations and fill in the names:



Conversation (a)

Méng / Name: _____
名 /

Conversation (b)

Méng / Name: _____
名 /

Conversation (c)

Méng / Name: _____
名 /

- (2) You are B. What do you say?



A

A Sāan

B

A Ming¹



Ngó giu A Sāan.
Něi giu mē méng a?
我叫亞珊。
你叫咩名呀?

A Ming¹, něi hóu!
亞明, 你好!

- (3) Before you go on to the next unit, ask 5 Cantonese speakers their names and write them here:

	1	2	3	4	5
Méng / Name 名 /					

第二課

介紹 (姓)

Unit 2

Introduction—Formal
(Surnames)

1. Vocabulary in context

Síu 小	little; small—a humble word used instead of "My"
sing 姓	surname
Wong` 王	a Chinese surname
tséng 請	please
man` 問	ask
gwai 貴	honourable—a respectful word used instead of "your"
Yeung` 楊	a Chinese surname
síu dzé 小姐	"Miss"—always put after the surname; used also when marital status is not known, as in "Ms."
sīn sāang 先生	"Mr."—always put after the surname

2. Dialogue

A



B



× Síu sing Wong`.
Tséng man` gwai sing a?
小姓王。
請問貴姓呀?

My Surname's Wong.
May I ask what your
(honourable) surname is?



Ngǒ sing Yeung`.
我姓楊。

My surname's Yeung.

Yeung` síu dzé, nǐ hóu!
楊小姐，你好!



How do you do, Miss Yeung!



Wong` sīn sāang, nǐ hóu!
王先生，你好!

How do you do, Mr. Wong!



3. Vocabulary bank

Some common Chinese surnames (and their English spellings):

Tsan ¹ —Chan 陳	Pūn—Poon; Pun 潘
Lěi—Lee; Li 李	Tsui ¹ —Tsui; chui 徐
Dzēūng—Cheung 張	Tsoi—Choi 蔡
Wong ¹ —Wong 黃; 王	Au Yeung ¹ —Au-Yeung 歐陽
Ho ¹ —Ho 何	Sī Tou ¹ —Sze-To 司徒
Au—Au 區; 歐	Dzāu—Chow 周
Yeung ¹ —Yeung 楊	Dzāng—Tsang 曾
Lam ¹ —Lam 林	Dang ¹ —Tang 鄧
Lo ¹ —Lo 羅	Gōng—Kong 江
Leung ¹ —Leung 梁	Mok ¹ —Mok 莫

4. Focus

síu dzé—Miss; Ms. sīn sāang—Mr. (taai) taái—Mrs.	Tsan ¹	síu dzé	něi hóu!
	Lěi		
	Dzēūng	sīn sāang	
	Wong ¹	(taai) taái	
Ho ¹			

5. More Chinese surnames (and their English Spellings):

Dziu ¹ —Chiu 趙	Dze ¹ —Tse 謝	Lok—Lok 駱
Foong ¹ —Fung 馮	Leūi—Lui 呂	Dzōong—Chung 鍾
Fōng—Fong 方	Tou ¹ —To 陶	Ng ¹ —Ng 吳
Gok—Kok 郭	Wu ¹ —Wu 胡	Tong ¹ —Tong 唐
Hoong ¹ —Hung 洪	Lau ¹ —Lau 劉	Mak ¹ —Mak 麥
Lou ¹ —Low 盧	Yuen ¹ —Yuen 袁	Fu ¹ —Fu 符

Sū—So

蘇

Sīu—Siu

蕭

Dzeng`—Cheng

鄭

Taam`—Tam

譚

Gaán—Kan

簡

Tsin`—Tsen; Chin

錢

Yam`—Yam

任

Lai`—Lai

黎

Look`—Luk

陸

Gú—Ku

古

Mǎ—Ma

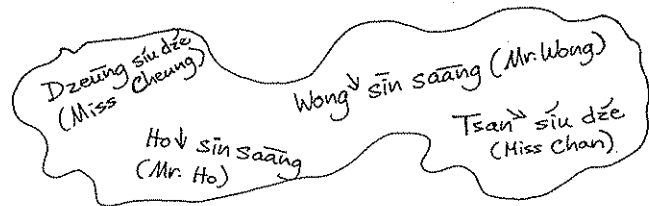
馬

Yip`—Yip; Ip

葉

6. Exercises

- ☐☐ (1) Listen to the 2 conversations and fill in the people's surnames:



Conversations	(a)		(b)	
	A	B	A	B
Sing / surname 姓 / surname	Wong` sīn sāang			

- (2) Before you go on to the next unit, ask 5 Cantonese speakers their surnames and write them here:

	1	2	3	4	5
Sing / surname 姓 / surname					

(3) Now fill in your own information.

Nēi lē?

What about you?

Nēi gēi dō seui a?

How old are you?

Ngó _____ seui. I'm _____.

(4) Before you go on to the next unit, ask 5 Cantonese speakers (preferably men – as some Chinese women don't like to disclose their age!) how old they are:

	1	2	3	4	5
méng / sīng 名 / 姓 name / surname					
nín' líng' 年 齡 Age					

Dai` gáu fo

第九課

Unit 9

Maai sāang gwó

買生菓

Buying Fruit

1. Vocabulary in context (A)

ping' gwó 蘋果	apples
gēi (dō) 幾 (多)	how much
tsín 錢	money
gēi dō tsín 幾多錢	how much money
gēi tsín 幾錢	short for "gēi dō tsín"
mān 蚊	dollar
sap` mān 十蚊	10 dollars
go 個	classifier (for apples in this case)
sāam go 三個	3 apples (in this context)
mm' gōi 唔該	please
béi 俾	give
ā ㄚ	auxiliary particle (at the end of a request)
hóu (a) 好 (呀)	yes; O.K.; sure

mm¹ gōi② 唔該

thank you for service

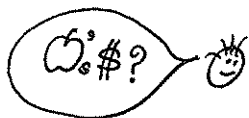
dō dze` 多謝

thank you for money (or gifts)

2. Dialogue (A)

Customer

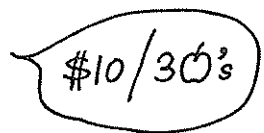
Shopkeeper



Ping¹ gwó géi (dō) tsín a?

蘋果幾(多)錢呀?

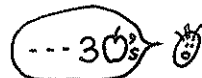
How much are the apples?



Sap¹ mán sām go.

十蚊三個。

Three for \$10.



Mm¹ gōi① béi sām go

ngõi ā.

唔該俾三個我㗎。

Can I have 3, please?



Hóu a! Sap¹ mán ā!

好呀! 十蚊!

Sure! That's \$10!



Mm¹ gōi②!

唔該!

Thank you!



Dō dze`!

多謝!

Thank you!

3. Vocabulary in context (B)

hēung dziū 香蕉

bananas

look` mán 六蚊

6 dollars

bong` 磅

pound

yāt bong` 一磅

one pound

leūng 兩

word used for the number "two" in money and counting

leūng bong` 兩磅

2 pounds

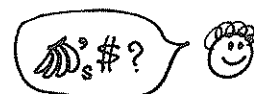
sap` yi` mán 十二蚊

12 dollars

4. Dialogue (B)

Customer

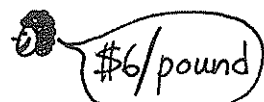
Shopkeeper



Hēung dziū géi (dō) tsín a?

香蕉幾(多)錢呀?

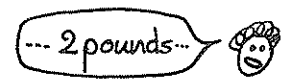
How much are the bananas?



Look` mán yāt bong`.

六蚊一磅。

\$6 a pound.



Mm¹ gōi béi leūng bong`

ngõ ā!

唔該俾兩磅我㗎!

Can I have 2 pounds please?



Mm' gōi!

唔該!

Thank you!



Hóu a! Sap` yì` mǎn ā!

好呀! 十二蚊嘢!

Sure! That's \$12!



Dō dze`!

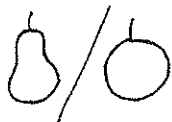
多謝!

Thank you!

5. Vocabulary bank

Sāang gwó / Fruit
生菓 / Fruit

léi
梨



pear

tsáng
橙



orange

sāi gwā
西瓜



watermelon

pou' tai' dzí
菩提子



grapes

tsē lei' dzí
車厘子



cherry

sì dō bē léi
士多啤梨



strawberry

gān
斤

catty

(Chinese measuring unit
for weight)

6. More fruit

bō lo'—pineapple
菠蘿

loong' ngāan—dragon eye
龍眼

bou lām—plum
布祿

mat' gwā—melon
蜜瓜

hā mat' gwā—honey dew
哈蜜瓜
melon

mook' gwā—papaya
木瓜

hang'—apricot
杏

sāi yáu—grapefruit
西柚

kei' yì gwó—kiwi
奇異菓











tóu—peach
桃

lai' dzī—laichee
荔枝

ye' dzī—coconut
椰子

7. Exercises

(1) Look at the table.

Example	 \$?	\$ 10 / 3 
(a)	 \$?	\$ 4 / 1 
(b)	 \$?	\$ 11 / 4 
(c)	 \$?	\$ 6 / 1 pound
(d)	 \$?	\$ 20 / 1 catty
(e)	 \$?	\$ 19 / 1 pound
(f)	 \$?	\$ 15 / 1 catty

What do you answer?

Example:

Ask: Ping¹ gwó géi (dō) tsín a?

蘋果幾(多)錢呀?

Answer: ping¹ gwó sap¹ mǎn sāam go.

蘋果十蚊三個。

(a) Léi géi (dō) tsín a?

梨幾(多)錢呀?

(b) Tsáang géi (dō) tsín a?

橙幾(多)錢呀?

(c) Hēung dziū géi (dō) tsín a?

香蕉幾(多)錢呀?

(d) Sāi gwā géi (dō) tsín a?

西瓜幾(多)錢呀?

(e) Sī¹ dō bē léi géi (dō) tsín a?

士多啤梨幾(多)錢呀?

(f) Tsē lei¹ dzí géi (dō) tsín a?

車厘子幾(多)錢呀?

•• (2) Bingo game

(a) Play this game yourself *OR* with a partner—A/B.









(b) Look at page 50.

(c) Cross out the words or pictures that you hear on the tape.









(d) Finish when you have crossed out *all* the words and pictures on the grid.

OR, the person that crosses out *all* the words and pictures first wins.

A

	\$3		4 pounds	
\$20				
				
			\$9	
				how much?
	\$\$\$ money			catty
				\$18






B

\$\$\$ money				
	how much?			
			\$9	
\$3			4 pounds	
				
				
\$20	\$18			catty




•• (3) Listen and fill in the table:

Example:

Ping'gwó sap' yāt mǎn sei go.

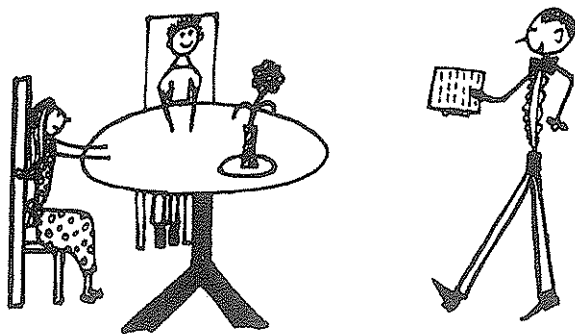
Example		\$ 11 / 4 
(a)		\$__ / 1 pound
(b)		\$__ / __ 
(c)	_____	\$ 15 / ____ catty
(d)	_____	\$__ / 1 pound

(4) Before you go on to the next unit, go to a Chinese market and buy

- (i) 2  's,
- (ii) 1 pound of  's and
- (iii) 1 catty of  's

- ☐☐ (2) (a) Listen and circle what the customers order.
 (b) How much does the meal cost? \$ _____.

MENU	
Sandwich	7-up
Salad	Coke
Fries	Coffee
Beef Curry and Rice	Tea (English)
Baked Seafood and Rice	Beer
Fried Rice	Red wine
	White wine



- (3) Before you go on to the next unit, go to a restaurant and order something to eat in Cantonese!

Dai` yi sap` yi fo

第二十二課

Unit 22

Daap dik si

搭的士

Taking a Taxi

☐☐ 1. Vocabulary in context

heui 去	go; to; go to
Hin lei` si dou` 軒尼詩道	Hennessy Road
gan` 近	near; close to
dei` tit dzaam` 地鐵站	MTR station
tsin` bin` 前便	ahead
lou` hau 路口	junction
tsin` bin` lou` hau 前便路口	the junction ahead; the next junction
ting` 停	stop
tsē 車	car; vehicle
ting` tsē 停車	stop the car
dzaáu 找	give change
mm` sai dzaáu 唔駛找	no need to give back the change; in other words, "keep the change"

2. Dialogue



Sī gēi / Driver
司機 / 司機

Daap haak / Passenger
搭客 / 搭客

Heui bīn dou` a?

去邊度呀?

Where do you want to go?



Heui Hīn lei` sī dou` ā,
mm` gōi.

去軒尼詩道吖，唔該。

To Hennessy Road, please.

Hóu a. Gan` bīn dou` a?

好呀。近邊度呀?

Sure. Whereabouts?



Gan` Wān dzái dei` tit
dzaam`.

近灣仔地鐵站。

Near Wanchai MTR station.



Mm` gōi tsin` bin` lou`
háu ting` tsē ā.

唔該前便路口停車吖。

Can you stop at the next junction,
please?



Hóu a. Yà sei go bun ā.

好呀。廿四個半吖。

Sure. That's \$ 24.50.



Mm` sái dzaáu la.

唔駛找啦。

Keep the change.

3. Vocabulary bank

Dou` lou` / Roads
道路 / 道路

Yīng wong` dou`—King's Road

英皇道

Dāk fū dou`—Des Voeux Road

德輔道

Wong` hau` daai` dou`—Queen's Road

皇后大道

Gōn nok` dou`—Cannaught Road

干諾道

Gīn lei` dei` dou`—Kennedy Road

堅尼地道

Lo` bin` san` dou`—Robinson Road

羅便臣道

Lei` dēun dou`—Nathan Road

彌敦道

Dzó dēun dou`—Jordan Road

佐敦道

Taai dzí dou`—Prince Edward Road

太子道

Wō dá lóu dou`—Waterloo Road

窩打老道

Dāk fu` dou` dzōng—Des Voeux Road Central

德輔道中

Dāk fu` dou` sāi—Des Voeux Road West

德輔道西

dzōng—central

中

dōng—east

東

naam`—south

南

gaai—street

街

sāi—west

西

bāk—north

北

4. Exercises

(1) Look at the table.

Sī gēi / Driver 司機 / Driver	Daap haak / Passenger 搭客 / Passenger
Heui bīn dou` a?	Example: Dāk fu` dou` dzōng
	(a) Dāk fu` dou` sāi
	(b) Yīng wong` dou`
	(c) Lo` bin` san` dou`
	(d) Gīn lei` dei` dou`
	(e) Taai dzí dou`
	(f) Wong` hau` daai` dou` dōng

You are the passenger (B). What do you say?

Example:

A: Heui bīn dou` a?

B: Heui dāk fu` dou` dzōng ā, mm` gōi.

(a) A: Heui bīn dou` a?

B: Heui

(b) A: Heui bīn dou` a?

B: Heui

(c) A: Heui bīn dou` a?

B: _____

(d) A: Heui bīn dou` a?

B: _____

(e) A: Heui bīn dou` a?

B: _____

(f) A: Heui bīn dou` a?

B: _____

(2) Look at the table.

Sī gēi / Driver 司機 / Driver	Daap haak / Passenger 搭客 / Passenger
Gan` bīn dou` a?	Example: Dzōōng waan ¹ 𠵼
	(a) Wāān dzái 𠵼
	(b) Bāk gok 𠵼
	(c) Dzīm sā dzeúi 𠵼
	(d) Tsuen ¹ wāān 𠵼
	(e) Toong ¹ lo ¹ wāān 𠵼
	(f) Wong` gok 𠵼

You are the passenger (B). What do you say?

Example:

A: Gan` bīn dou` a?

B: Gan` Dzōōng Waan¹ dei` tit dzaam¹.

(a) A: Gan` bīn dou` a?

B: Gan` _____

(b) A: Gan` bīn dou` a?

B: Gan` _____

(c) A: Gan` bīn dou` a?

B: _____

(d) A: Gan` bīn dou` a?

B: _____

(e) A: Gan` bīn dou` a?

B: _____

(f) A: Gan` bīn dou` a?

B: _____

(3) Before you go on to the next unit, take a taxi and talk to the driver in Cantonese!

1. Vocabulary in context

ngan` hong` 銀行	bank
Wui` fōong ngan` hong` 滙豐銀行	Hongkong Bnak
gaak lei` 隔離	nextdoor; next to
dím 點	how
dím heui 點去	how to go; how to get there
nī dou` 呢度	here
dzik` 直	straight
haang` 行	walk; go
dzik` haang` 直行	go straight
gān dzue` 跟住	(and) then
dzuen 轉	turn
dzó 左	left
dzuen dzó 轉左	turn left
dzau` hai` 就係	that's it

yau` góok 郵局 post office

deui min` 對面 opposite

2. Dialogue

A

Mm` gōi, tséng man` wui`
fōong ngan` hong` hái
bīn dou` a?

唔該，請問滙豐銀行喺邊度
呀？

Excuse me, could you possibly tell
me where Hongkong Bank is,
please?



Hái dei` tit dzaam` gaak lei`.
喺地鐵站隔離。
It's next to the MTR station.

Tséng man` díng heui a?

請問點去呀？

Could you please tell me how to get
there?



Hái nī dou` dzik` haang`,
gān dzue` dzuen dzó,
dzau` hai` la.

Hái yau` góok deui min`.
喺呢度直行，跟住轉左，就係
啦。

喺郵局對面。

Go straight from here, then turn left,
and you'll be there. It's opposite
the Post Office.



Mm¹ gōi saai.

唔該晒。

Thank you very much.



Mm¹ sái mm¹ gōi.

唔駛唔該。

You're welcome.

3. Vocabulary bank

hok¹ haau¹—school

學校

dzáu¹ lau¹—Chinese restaurant

酒樓



tsaān¹ tēng¹—Western restaurant

餐廳



hei¹ yuén¹—cinema

戲院

gíng¹ tsaat¹ góok¹—police station

警察局

dzáu¹ dim¹—hotel

酒店



tsiū¹ káp¹ sí¹ tseung¹—supermarket

超級市場

gāai¹ sí¹—market; open market;
streetmarket

街市

yau¹ wing¹ tsi¹—swimming pool

游泳池



mǎ¹ tau¹—ferry pier

碼頭



gēi¹ tseung¹—airport

機場



ting¹ tsē¹ tseung¹—carpark

停車場



	dzik ¹ haang ¹	go straight
	dzuen ¹ dzó	turn left
	dzuen ¹ yau ¹	turn right

din¹ wá¹ ting¹—telephone box

電話亭



gōōng¹ yuén¹—park

公園

fó¹ tsē¹ dzaam¹—train station

火車站

naam¹ tsing¹ nin¹ wui — YMCA

男青年會

neui tsing¹ nin¹ wui — YWCA

女青年會

gaau toong dang — traffic lights

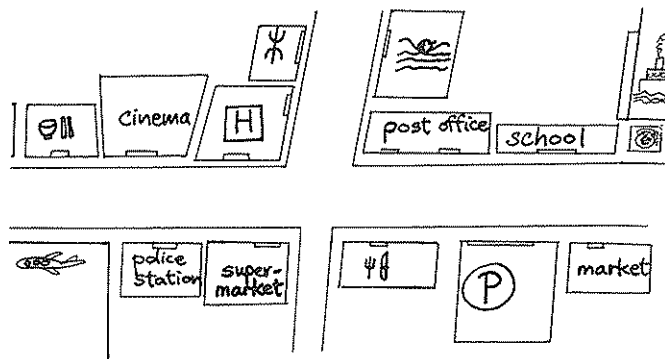
交通燈

sap² dzi² gaai (lou²) hau — crossroads

十字街(路)口

4. Exercises

(1) Look at the map.



You are B. What do you answer?

Example:

A: Tséng man² dei² tit dzaam² hái bin dou² a?

B: Hái dzáu dim gaak lei¹.

OR Hái yau¹ wing¹ tsi¹ deui min².

(a) A: Tséng man² mã tau¹ hái bin dou² a?

B: _____

(b) A: Tséng man² dzáu lau¹ hái bin dou² a?

B: _____

(c) A: Tséng man² tsū káp sí tseung¹ hái bin dou² a?

B: _____

(d) A: Tséng man² ting¹ tsē tseung¹ hái bin dou² a?

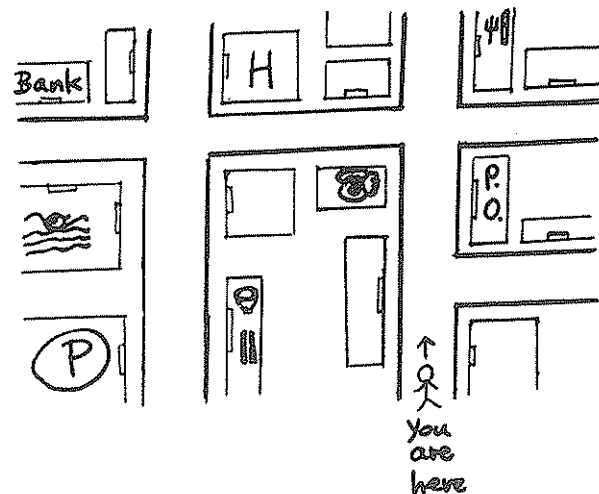
B: _____

(e) A: Tséng man² yau¹ góok hái bin dou² a?

B: _____

☐ (2) Look at the map. Listen.

Follow the directions and locate the MTR station (站).



	★Vowel & Final (long)	IPA	Example			★Vowel & Final (short)	IPA	Example			
			Initial	Vowel & Tone Final	Chinese character			Initial	Vowel & Tone Final	Chinese character	
"eu"	eu eung euk	/ɸ/* ^① /œ/* ^② /ɸ**ɿ(t)/	h h g	eu eung euk	H H ML	eui eun eut	/ɸ*ɿ/ /ɸ*n/ /ɸ**ɿ(t)/	h dz ts	eu eun eut	ML H H	去 樽 出
"i"	i iu im in ip it	/i:/ /iʊ/ /i:m/ /i:n/ /iʔ(p)/ /iʔ(t)/	dz dz dz g g g	i iu im in ip it	H H H H ML ML	ing ik	/iɿ/ /iʔ(k)/	s s	ing sik	H H	星 色
"o"	o oi on ong ot ok	/ɔ:/ /ɔ:i/ /ɔ:n/ /ɔ:ŋ/ /ɔʔ(t)/ /ɔʔ(k)/	g g g g g g	o oi on ong ot ok	H H H H ML ML	ou oong ook	/ɔu/ /*ou/ ^⑤ /ɔy/ /ɔ/* ^⑥ /ɔʔ(k)/ /o**ɿ(k)/	g dz l	ou oong ook	H H LL	高 中 六

"u"	u ui un ut	/u:/ /u:i/ /u:n/ /uʔ(t)/	g f p f	u ui un ut	H H H ML	姑 灰 潘 陶						
"ue"	ue uen uet	/y/ ^③ * /yn/ ^④ * /y**ɿ(t)/	dz s y	ue uen uet	H H LL	豬 孫 月						

Note:

① as in "deux"*/dø/

③ as in "plus"*/ply/

⑤ as in "tôt"*/to/

② as in "un"*/œ/

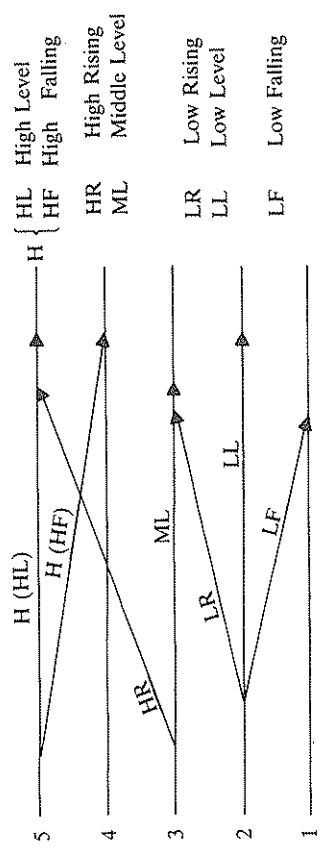
④ as in "une"*/yn/

⑥ as in "on"*/ɔ/

* French

TONES

In this book	YALE	IPA
HIGH (LEVEL/ FALLING)	Ā	HIGH FALLING
HIGH RISING	Á	HIGH RISING
MIDDLE LEVEL	A	HIGH FALLING HIGH RISING
LOW FALLING	A'	LOW FALLING
LOW RISING	ǎ	LOW RISING
LOW LEVEL	à	LOW FALLING LOW RISING



Examples of tone usage:

Tone	Middle			Low rise		Low flat
	H	HR	flat ML	LF	R	LL
Romanisation	sī	sí	si	si'	sì	sì
Chinese character	施	史	試	時	市	是
Romanisation	fān	fán	fān	fān'	fán	fàn
Chinese character	分	粉	訓	墳	奮	份
Romanisation	yāu	yáu	yau	yau'	yǎu	yau
Chinese character	休	柚	幼	由	有	又