

4. “不”、“一”的变调 Change in tones of 不 and 一

(1) “不”在第四声字前或由第四声变来的轻声字前读第二声 bú。例如：bú xiè (不谢)、búshì (不是)。在第一、二、三声前仍读第四声 bù。例如：bù xīn (不新)、bù lái (不来)、bù hǎo (不好)。

不 is pronounced in the 2nd tone (bú) before a syllable in the 4th tone or a syllable in the neutral tone changed from the 4th tone, e.g., bú xiè (You are welcome.), búshì (fault). But 不 is still pronounced in the 4th tone (bù) when it precedes a syllable in the 1st, 2nd or 3rd tone, e.g., bù xīn (not new), bù lái (not come), bù hǎo (not good).

(2) “一”在第四声字前或由第四声变来的轻声字前读第二声 yí。例如：yí kuài (一块)、yí ge (一个)。在第一、二、三声字前读第四声 yì。例如：yì tiān (一天)、yì nián (一年)、yìqǐ (一起)。

一 is pronounced in the 2nd tone (yí) before a syllable in the 4th tone or a syllable in the neutral tone changed from the 4th tone, e.g., yí kuài (a bar), yí ge (a piece). But 一 is pronounced in the 4th tone (yì) when it precedes a syllable in the 1st, 2nd or 3rd tone, e.g., yì tiān (a day), yì nián (a year), yìqǐ (together).

5. 儿化 Retroflexion with -r

er 常常跟其他韵母结合在一起，使该韵母成为儿化韵母。儿化韵母的写法是在原韵母之后加 r。例如：wánr (玩儿)、huār (花儿)。

er is often added to another final to make it retroflexed. The retroflex final is transcribed by adding r to the original final, e.g., wánr (to play), huār (flower).

6. 隔音符号 The dividing mark

ɑ、o、e 开头的音节连接在其他音节后面时，为了使音节界限清楚，不致混淆，要用隔音符号 “’” 隔开。例如：nǚ’ér (女儿)。

When a syllable beginning with ɑ, o or e follows another syllable, it is desirable to use the dividing mark “’” to clarify the boundary between the two syllables, e.g., nǚ’ér (daughter).