**Week 1**

**Chinese sounds**

**j q x**

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|  | Pronunciation | Tips & tricks |
| j | Raise the flat centre of the tongue to the roof of the mouth and position the tip of the tongue against the back of the bottom teeth, then loosen the tongue and let the air squeeze out through the channel. | The *pinyin* **j** is unvoiced with the tip of the tongue resting behind the lower incisors. You need to pull the corners of your mouth straight back.  |
| q | **q** is pronounced in the same manner as the *pinyin* j, but it is aspirated.  | q is similar to ch as in cheese, except that it is articulated with the tip of the tongue resting behind the lower incisors. Don’t forget to pull the corners of your mouth straight back. |
| x | To make the x sound, first raise the flat centre of the tongue toward the hard palate and then let the air squeeze out. The vocal cords do not vibrate.  | Like j and q, the *pinyin* **x** is articulated with the tip of the tongue resting behind the lower incisors. You need to pull the corners of your mouth straight back, like squeezing a smile. |

**zh ch sh r**

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|  | Pronunciation | Tips & tricks |
| zh | To make the **zh** sound, first curl up the tip of the tongue against the hard palate, then loosen it and let the air squeeze out the channel. | The *pinyin* **zh** sounds rather like j as in jerk, but it is unvoiced and produced with the tip of the tongue against the hard palate. |
| ch | The *pinyin* **ch** is pronounced in the same manner as zh, but ch is aspirated. |  |
| sh | To make the **sh** sound, turn up the tip of the tongue toward but not touching the hard palate and then let the air squeeze out. The vocal cords do not vibrate. | The *pinyin* **sh** sounds like sh as in shirt except that it is produced with the tongue raised against the hard palate. |
| r  | The *pinyin* **r** is pronounced in the same manner as sh. It is voiced, therefore the vocal cords vibrate. | The *pinyin* **r** is pronounced in the same manner as sh. It is voiced, therefore the vocal cords vibrate. |