

Fine-tune your tones

Fix your 2nd tone

The second tone vs. other tones

The 2nd tone vs. the 1st tone

Míngtiān huíjiā qián xiān lái hē chá.

明天回家前先來喝茶。 / 明天回家前先来喝茶。

Come over for tea before going home tomorrow.

The 2nd tone vs. the 3rd tone

Lǐ Péng yǒu shíjiǔpíng hǎo pǐjiǔ.

李朋有十九瓶好啤酒。

Li Peng has 19 bottles of fine beer.

The 2nd tone vs. the 4th tone

Báicài hé miàntiáo yào shíkuài qián.

白菜和麵條要十塊錢。 / 白菜和面条要十块钱。

The Cabbage and noodles cost ten dollars.

Minimal pairs

qíshí 其實/其实

actually

xióngmāo 熊貓/熊猫

panda

mánzú 蠻族/蛮族

barbarian

dà má 大麻

marihuana

xuéxí 學習/学习

to learn

qíchē 騎車/骑车

to ride a bike

qīshí 七十

seventy

xiōngmáo 胸毛

chest hair

mǎnzú 滿足/满足

to be satisfied

Dà mǎ 大馬/大马

abbreviation for Malaysia

xuéxì 學系/学系

department, school

qìchē 汽車/汽车

car

Tip: Train your ear before your voice. Listen and pay attention to the second tone in different context every day when you study Chinese.

Mandarin *Tune-Up!*