

Fine-tune your tones Fix your 3rd tone

The third tone vs. other tones

The 3rd tone vs. the 1st tone

Tā xiǎng gēn nǐ shuō wǎn'ān.
她想跟你說晚安。/她想跟你说晚安。
She wanted to say good night to you.

The 3rd tone vs. the 2nd tone

Lǐ Péng yǒu shíjiǔpíng hǎo píjiǔ.
李朋有十九瓶好啤酒。
Li Peng has 19 bottles of fine beer.

The 3rd tone vs. the 4th tone

Wǒ bù xiǎng yào nǐ zìjǐ qù kǎoshì.
我不想要你自己去考試。/ 我不想要你自己去考试。
I don't want you to go take the exam alone.

Minimal pairs

gǔlì 鼓励/鼓勵
to encourage

gūlì 孤立
to isolate

qǐshí 乞食
to beg for food

qīshí 七十
seventy

lǐzi 李子
plum

lízi 梨子
pear

hǎochē 好車/好车
good car

háochē 豪車/豪车
luxury car

huǒchē 火車/火车
train

huòchē 貨車/货车
truck

hǎochī 好吃
tasty

hàochī 好吃
love to eat

Mandarin Tune-Up!