

# IRAN OXFORD

LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

## Pinyin Explanation

- b similar to 'b' in the English 'boat' - softened to approach a 'p' sound
- p similar to 'p' in the English 'top' - with more aspiration
- m same as 'm' in the English 'mat'
- f same as 'f' in the English 'fat'
- d similar to 'd' in the English 'down' - softened to approach a 't' sound
- t similar to 't' in the English 'top' - with more aspiration
- n similar to 'n' in the English 'name'
- l similar to 'l' in the English 'look'
- g similar to 'g' in the English 'go' - softened to approach a 'k' sound
- k similar to 'k' in the English 'kiss' - with more aspiration
- h similar to 'h' in the English 'hope' - with a slight rasp as in 'loch'
- j similar to 'j' in the English 'jeep' - tongue is positioned below lower teeth
- q similar to 'ch' in the English 'cheap' - tongue is positioned below lower teeth
- x similar to 'sh' in the English 'sheep' - tongue is positioned below lower teeth
- zh similar to 'j' in the English 'jam'
- ch similar to 'ch' in the English 'cheap'
- sh similar to 'sh' in the English 'ship'
- r similar to 'z' in the English 'azure'
- z same as 'ds' in the English 'woods'
- c similar to 'ts' in the English 'bits'
- s similar to 's' in the English 'see'
- (y)i similar to 'ee' in the English 'bee'
- (w)u similar to 'oo' in the English 'room'
- yu purse your lips and position the tongue high and forwards

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- a similar to 'ah' in the English 'Ah-hah!'
- (w)o similar to 'or' in the English 'bore'
- e similar to 'er' in the English 'hers'
- (y)e similar to the English 'Yay!'
- ai similar to the English 'eye'
- ei similar to 'ei' in the English 'weigh'
- ao similar to 'au' in the English 'sauerkraut'
- ou similar to 'ou' in the English 'dough'
- an similar to 'an' in the English 'fan'
- en similar to 'un' in the English 'under'
- ang a Mandarin 'a' followed by the 'ng' sound like in the English 'sing'
- eng a Mandarin 'e' followed by the 'ng' sound like in the English 'sing'
- er a Mandarin 'e' with the tongue curled back