

Pronunciation Lesson 2

In this lesson, you will learn the following new sounds:

Initials	z, c
Finals	a, eo aai, ai, ei, oi, ui, eoi
Tones	Tone 3 (mid level)

1 ~ Tone 3 (Mid Level)

Tone 3 is the mid level tone. The pitch remains at the middle pitch throughout the whole syllable. The pitch of Tone 3 is slightly lower than the pitch of Tone 1.

Tone Number	Tone 3
Tone Name	Mid level
Diagram	High _____ Mid —————→ Low _____



Step 1

01 Let's revise Tone 1 first. Listen to the syllable si in Tone 1.

si1 – si1 – si1 – si1 – si1

02 Listen to the syllable si in Tone 3. Pay attention to the pitch. It is slightly lower than the pitch of Tone 1.

si3 – si3 – si3 – si3 – si3

03 Listen to the syllable si in Tone 1 and Tone 3.


si1 si3 – si1 si3 – si1 si3 – si1 si3 – si1 si3




Step 2

 04 Practice saying Tone 1 with the syllable si. Listen and repeat.

si1 – si1 – si1 – si1 – si1

 05 To say Tone 3, lower the pitch of Tone 1 a little. Practice saying Tone 3 with the syllable si. Listen and repeat.


si3 – si3 – si3 – si3 – si3

 06 Practice saying Tone 1 and Tone 3 with the syllable si. Listen and repeat.

si1 si3 – si1 si3 – si1 si3 – si1 si3 – si1 si3






Practice

 07 Practice saying Tone 3 with other syllables. Listen and repeat.

1. paa3 – paa3 – paa3
2. se3 – se3 – se3
3. go3 – go3 – go3
4. fu3 – fu3 – fu3

2 ~ Tone 1 to Tone 3

We have learned the first three tones. Let's revise them together.

Tone Number	Tone 1	Tone 2	Tone 3
Tone Name	High level	Mid rising	Mid level
Diagram			



Step 1

08 Listen to the syllable si in Tone 1 to Tone 3 together. Pay attention to the pitch.

si1

si1 si2

si1 si2 si3 – si1 si2 si3 – si1 si2 si3 – si1 si2 si3 – si1 si2 si3



Step 2

09 Practice saying the syllable si in Tone 1 to Tone 3. Listen and repeat.

si1

si1 si2

si1 si2 si3 – si1 si2 si3 – si1 si2 si3 – si1 si2 si3 – si1 si2 si3



Practice

10 Practice saying Tone 1 to Tone 3 with other syllables. Listen and repeat.

1. paa1 paa2 paa3 – paa1 paa2 paa3 – paa1 paa2 paa3

2. go1 go2 go3 – go1 go2 go3 – go1 go2 go3

3. fu1 fu2 fu3 – fu1 fu2 fu3 – fu1 fu2 fu3

3 ~ The Initial Pair z and c

Cantonese Sound	Aspiration
Initial z	Unaspirated
Initial c	Aspirated ㄝ

The Initial z



Step 1

11 Listen to the initial z.

z - z - z - z - z



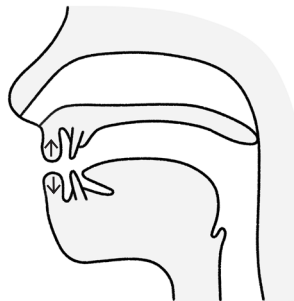
Step 2

12 Listen and repeat.

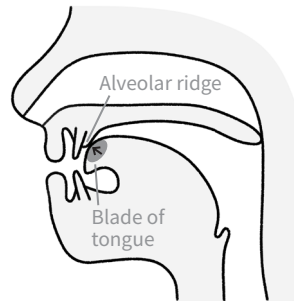
z - z - z - z - z

Blade of tongue
The flat part just behind your tongue tip

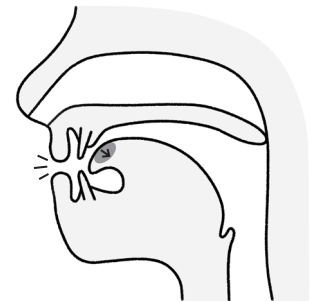
Alveolar ridge
The small ridge just behind your upper front teeth



Open your mouth a little.



Raise the blade of your tongue quickly to your alveolar ridge until they are in contact.



Immediately lower the blade of your tongue a little to create a narrow gap between the blade of your tongue and your alveolar ridge. Blow out air through the narrow gap softly.

The Initial c



Step 1

13 Listen to the initial c. Pay attention to the noticeable sound of breathing out.

c - c - c - c - c



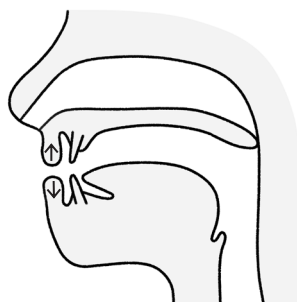
Step 2

14 Listen and repeat.

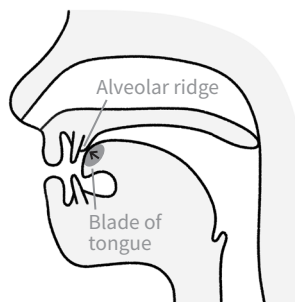
c - c - c - c - c

Blade of tongue
The flat part just behind your tongue tip

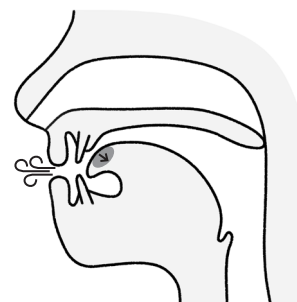
Alveolar ridge
The small ridge just behind your upper front teeth



Open your mouth a little.



Raise the blade of your tongue quickly to your alveolar ridge until they are in contact.



Immediately lower the blade of your tongue a little to create a narrow gap between the blade of your tongue and your alveolar ridge. Blow out a large amount of air through the narrow gap to create a noticeable sound of breathing out.



Practice



15 Practice saying the initials z and c with different finals. Listen and repeat.

1. z – aa – zaa3
c – aa – caa3
zaa3 caa3 – zaa3 caa3 – zaa3 caa3
2. z – e – ze3
c – e – ce3
ze3 ce3 – ze3 ce3 – ze3 ce3
3. z – i – zi3
c – i – ci3
zi3 ci3 – zi3 ci3 – zi3 ci3
4. z – o – zo3
c – o – co3
zo3 co3 – zo3 co3 – zo3 co3

TIPS!



Cantonese Sound	IPA	Similar English sound
Initial z	[ts]	<i>j</i> as in <i>jump</i> Note that the initial z and the <i>j</i> sound in <i>jump</i> are not identical. When we say the <i>j</i> sound in <i>jump</i> , we round our lips. However, when we say the initial z, we don't round our lips.
Initial c	[tsh̥]	<i>t + s</i> as in <i>cats</i> The initial c is similar to the ending sound of a word ending with <i>t</i> and the plural <i>s</i> .

4 ~ The Final a

The final a is formed by the vowel a alone. Note that the final a only appears in very few words.

 **Step 1**  16 Listen to the vowel a.

a - a - a - a - a

 **Step 2**  17 Listen and repeat. Pay attention to your mouth shape. Use a mirror to check it if needed.

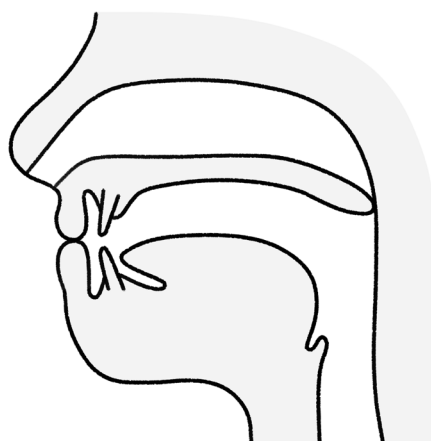
a - a - a - a - a

Tongue Position: Open your mouth a little by lowering your lower jaw a little.

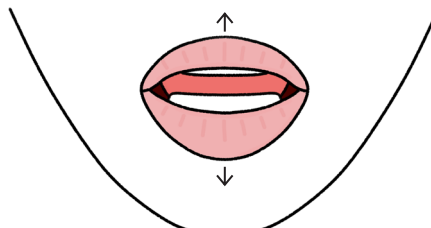
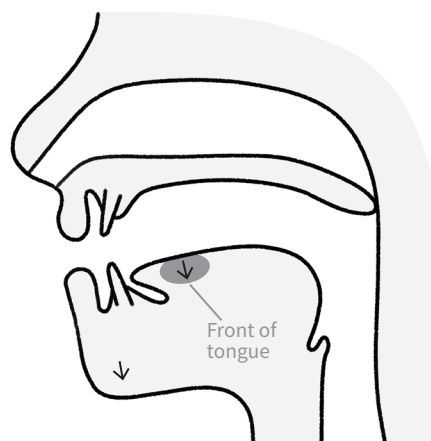
Lower the front of your tongue a little.

Lip Shape: Relax your lips. Avoid rounding or spreading them.

Rest Position



Vowel a





Practice 18 Practice saying the syllables with the final a. Listen and repeat.

1. g – a – ga3 – ga3 – ga3
2. z – a – za3 – za3 – za3

 TIPS!



Cantonese Sound	IPA	Similar English Sound
Final a	[e]	<i>u</i> as in <i>cup</i>

5 ~ The Vowel eo

The vowel eo doesn't form a final on its own. It is always combined with another vowel or an ending consonant to form a final. Also, note that the vowel eo is not produced by combining the vowel e and the vowel o. It is a sound different from both of them.

 **Step 1**  19 Listen to the vowel eo.

eo – eo – eo – eo – eo

 **Step 2**  20 Listen and repeat. Pay attention to your mouth shape. Use a mirror to check it if needed.

eo – eo – eo – eo – eo

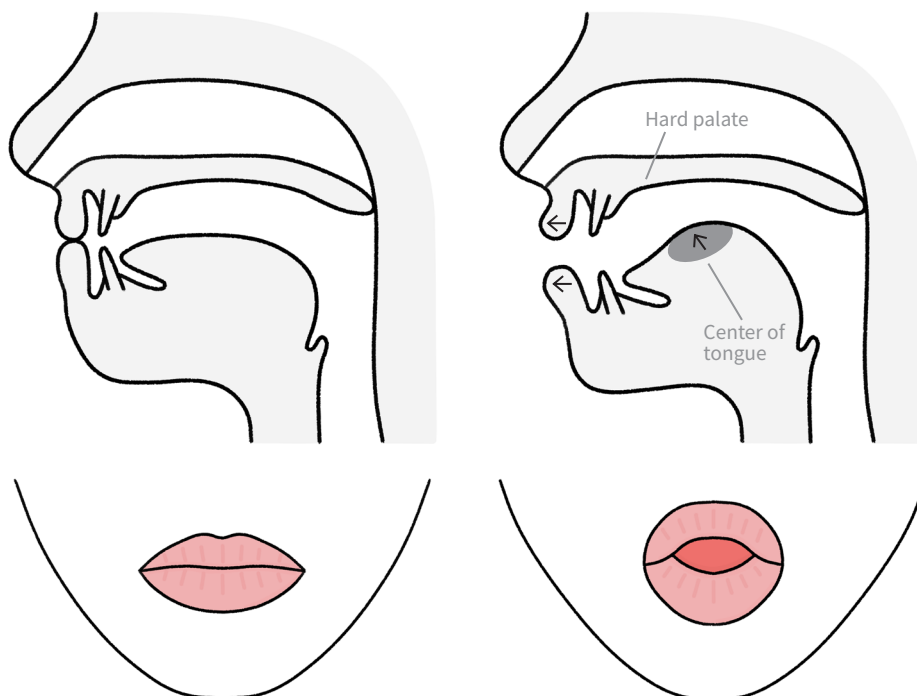
Tongue Position: Raise the center of your tongue toward your hard palate a little.

Lip Shape: Round your lips a little. Your lips will move forward a little.

Rest Position

Vowel eo

Hard palate
The part of your upper jaw just behind your alveolar ridge



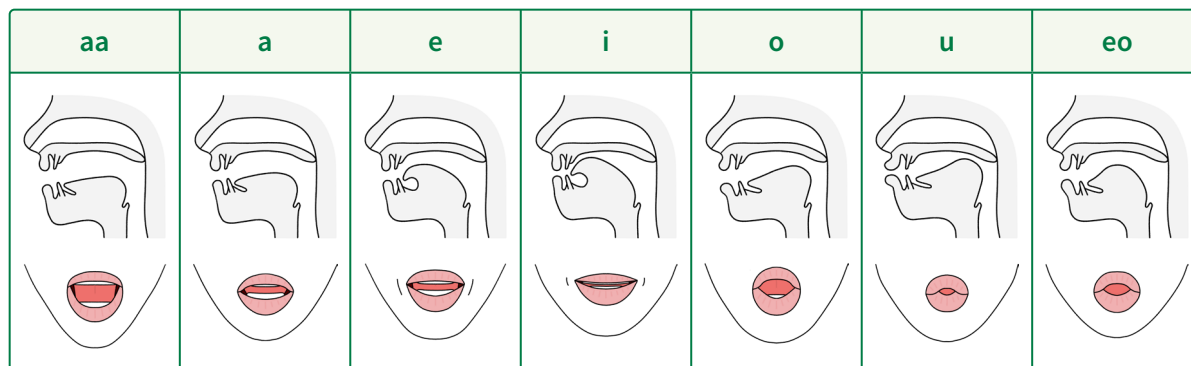
 **TIPS!**

Cantonese Sound	IPA	Similar English Sound
Vowel eo	[ə]	There is no similar English sound for the vowel eo.

6 ~ Combining Vowels

We have learned seven vowels so far. Let's revise them.

 21 Listen and repeat.



We can combine these vowels with the vowel i or u to form other finals. Note that not all combinations are possible.

 22 Listen.

	aa	a	e	i	o	u	eo
-i	aa <i>i</i>	a <i>i</i>	e <i>i</i>		o <i>i</i>	u <i>i</i>	eo <i>i</i>
-u	aa <u>u</u>	a <u>u</u>	e <u>u</u>	i <u>u</u>	o <u>u</u>		

We will focus on the finals ending with the vowel i in this lesson and those with the vowel u in the next lesson.

7 ~ The Finals Ending with the Vowel i



Step 1

23 Listen to the finals ending with the vowel i. Notice the smooth transition from the first vowel to the second vowel.

1. aa - i - aa+i - aai
2. a - i - a+i - ai
3. e - i - e+i - ei
4. o - i - o+i - oi
5. u - i - u+i - ui
6. eo - i - eo+i - eoi



Step 2

24 Listen and repeat.



1. aa - i - aa+i - aai
2. a - i - a+i - ai
3. e - i - e+i - ei
4. o - i - o+i - oi
5. u - i - u+i - ui
6. eo - i - eo+i - eoi

8 ~ The Final aai

The final aai is formed by the vowels aa and i.

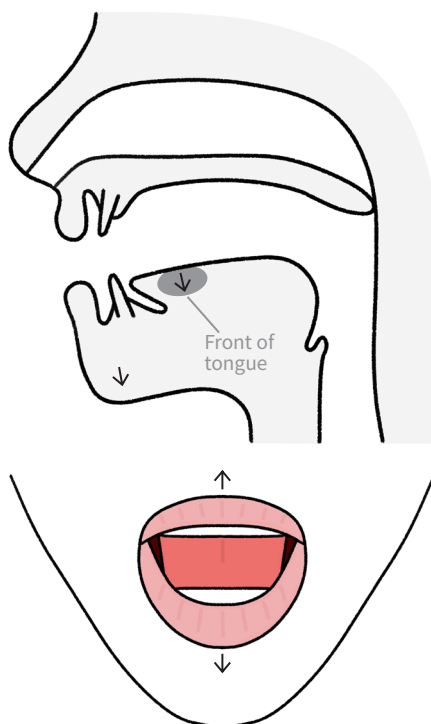
 **Step 1**  25 Listen to the final aai.

aai – aai – aai – aai – aai

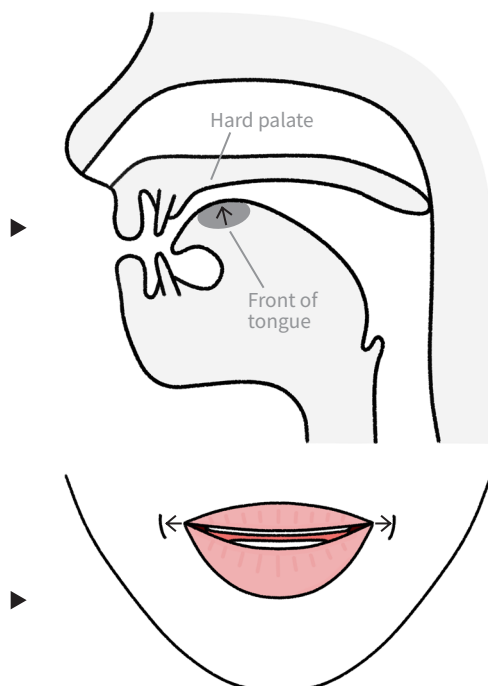
 **Step 2**  26 Listen and repeat. Pay attention to your mouth shape. Use a mirror to check it if needed.

aai – aai – aai – aai – aai

Hard palate
The part of your upper jaw just behind your alveolar ridge



Tongue Position: Open your mouth widely by lowering your lower jaw. Lower the front of your tongue.
Lip Shape: Relax your lips. Avoid rounding or spreading them.



Tongue Position: Close your mouth a little. Raise the front of your tongue toward your hard palate until they are almost in contact. You will feel the left and right sides of your tongue touch your upper teeth.
Lip Shape: Spread your lips.



Practice 27 Practice saying the syllables with the final aai. Listen and repeat.

1. p – aai – paai – paai1 paai2 paai3
2. g – aai – gaai – gaai1 gaai2 gaai3
3. s – aai – saai – saai1 saai2 saai3

 TIPS!



Cantonese Sound	IPA	Similar English Sound
Final aai	[a:i]	<i>i</i> as in <i>ice</i>

9 ~ The Final ai

The final ai is formed by the vowels a and i.

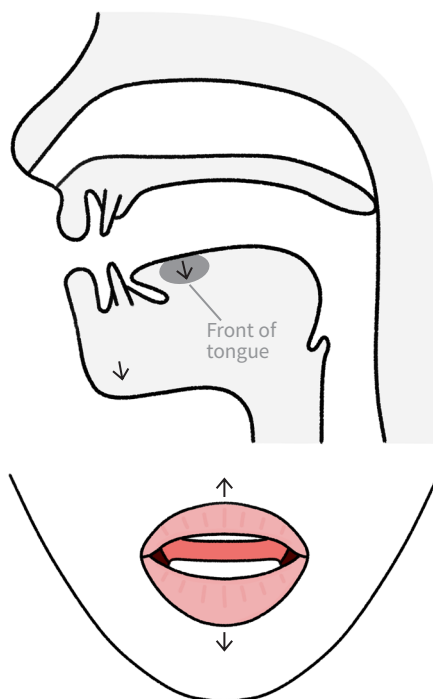
 **Step 1**  28 Listen to the final ai.

ai – ai – ai – ai – ai

 **Step 2**  29 Listen and repeat. Pay attention to your mouth shape. Use a mirror to check it if needed.

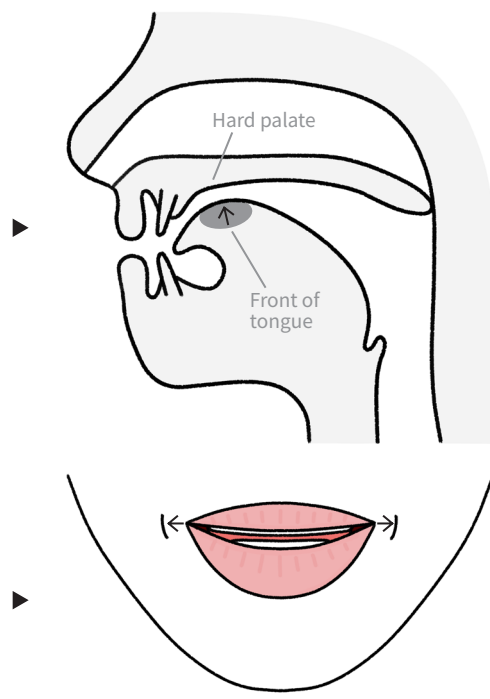
ai – ai – ai – ai – ai

Hard palate
The part of your upper jaw just behind your alveolar ridge



Tongue Position: Open your mouth a little by lowering your lower jaw a little. Lower the front of your tongue a little.

Lip Shape: Relax your lips. Avoid rounding or spreading them.



Tongue Position: Raise the front of your tongue toward your hard palate until they are almost in contact. You will feel the left and right sides of your tongue touch your upper teeth.

Lip Shape: Spread your lips.



Practice



30

Practice saying the syllables with the final ai. Listen and repeat.

1. t – ai – tai – tai1 tai2 tai3
2. d – ai – dai – dai1 dai2 dai3
3. z – ai – zai – zai1 zai2 zai3

TIPS!



Cantonese Sound	IPA	Similar English Sound
Final ai	[ɛi]	The vowel in <i>fight</i>

10 ~ The Final ei

The final ei is formed by the vowels e and i.

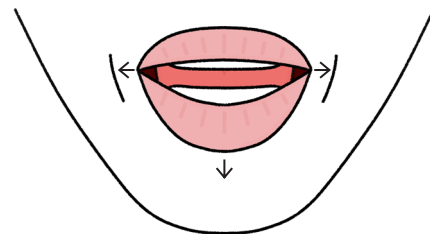
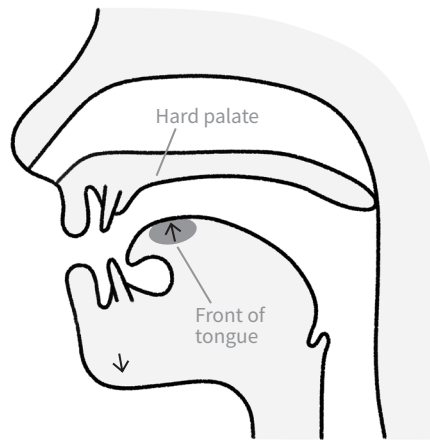
 **Step 1**  31 Listen to the final ei.

ei – ei – ei – ei – ei

 **Step 2**  32 Listen and repeat. Pay attention to your mouth shape. Use a mirror to check it if needed.

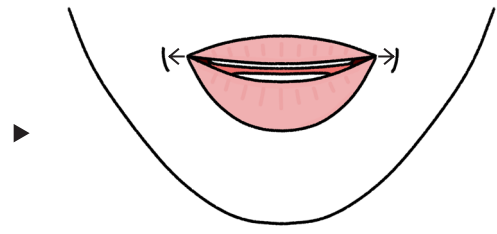
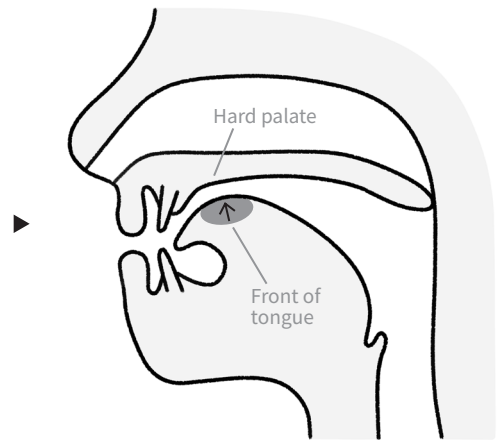
ei – ei – ei – ei – ei

Hard palate
The part of your upper jaw just behind your alveolar ridge



Tongue Position: Open your mouth a little by lowering your lower jaw a little. Raise the front of your tongue toward your hard palate a little.

Lip Shape: Spread your lips a little.



Tongue Position: Move the front of your tongue further toward your hard palate until they are almost in contact. You will feel the left and right sides of your tongue touch your upper teeth.

Lip Shape: Spread your lips further.



Practice 33 Practice saying the syllables with the final ei. Listen and repeat.

1. b – ei – bei – bei1 bei2 bei3
2. p – ei – pei – pei1 pei2 pei3
3. g – ei – gei – gei1 gei2 gei3

 TIPS!

Cantonese Sound	IPA	Similar English Sound
Final ei	[ei]	<i>a</i> as in <i>age</i>

11 ~ The Final oi

The final oi is formed by the vowels o and i.



Step 1

🔊 34 Listen to the final oi.

oi – oi – oi – oi – oi



Step 2

🔊 35 Listen and repeat. Pay attention to your mouth shape. Use a mirror to check it if needed.

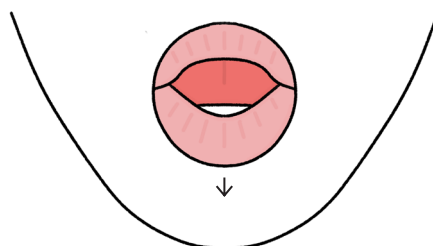
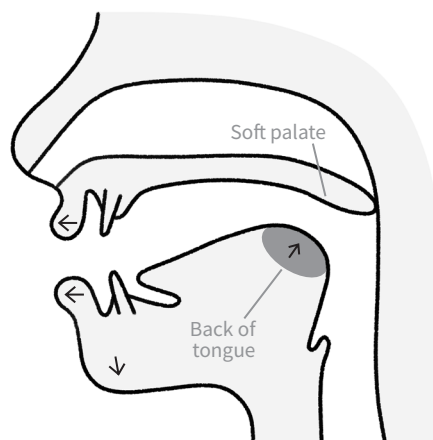
oi – oi – oi – oi – oi

Soft palate

The back of the roof of your mouth

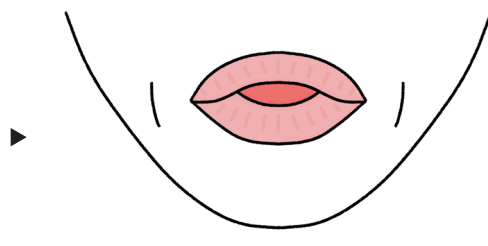
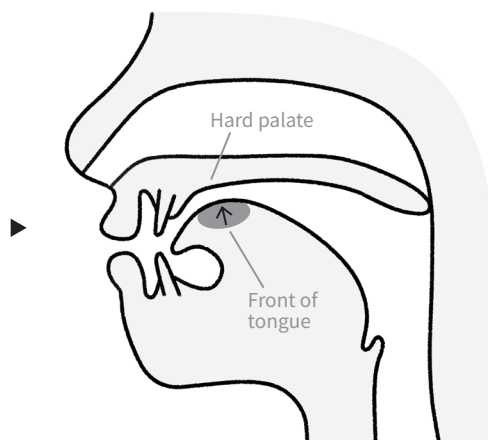
Hard palate

The part of your upper jaw just behind your alveolar ridge



Tongue Position: Open your mouth a little by lowering your lower jaw a little. Raise the back of your tongue toward your soft palate a little. You will feel your whole tongue move backward a little.

Lip Shape: Round your lips a little. Your lips will move forward a little.



Tongue Position: Move the front of your tongue toward your hard palate until they are almost in contact. You will feel the left and right sides of your tongue touch your upper teeth.

Lip Shape: While keep rounding your lips, spread your lips.



Practice 36 Practice saying the syllables with the final oi. Listen and repeat.

1. g – oi – goi – goi1 goi2 goi3
2. z – oi – zoi – zoi1 zoi2 zoi3
3. c – oi – coi – coi1 coi2 coi3

 TIPS!



Cantonese Sound	IPA	Similar English Sound
Final oi	[ɔ:i] or [ɔ:y]	oy as in <i>bo<u>y</u></i>

12 ~ The Final ui

The final ui is formed by the vowels u and i.

 **Step 1**  37 Listen to the final ui.

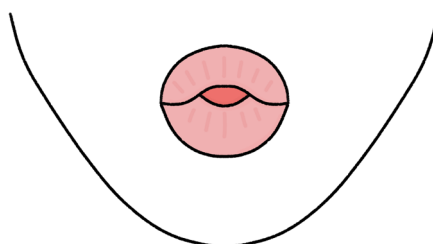
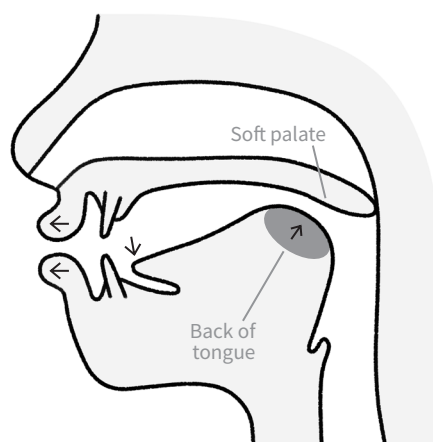
ui – ui – ui – ui – ui

 **Step 2**  38 Listen and repeat. Pay attention to your mouth shape. Use a mirror to check it if needed.

ui – ui – ui – ui – ui

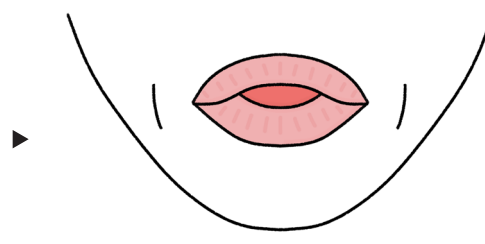
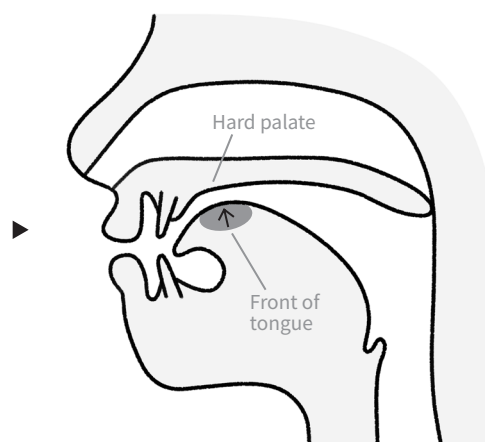
Soft palate
The back of the roof
of your mouth

Hard palate
The part of your
upper jaw just
behind your
alveolar ridge



Tongue Position: Lower the tip of your tongue and raise the back of your tongue toward your soft palate. You will feel your whole tongue move backward.

Lip Shape: Round your lips tightly. Your lips will move forward.




Tongue Position: Move the front of your tongue toward your hard palate until they are almost in contact. You will feel the left and right sides of your tongue touch your upper teeth.

Lip Shape: While keep rounding your lips, spread your lips.



Practice

 39 Practice saying the syllables with the final ui. Listen and repeat. Note that the syllables bui2 and fui2 are not included below because they don't represent any words.

1. b – ui – bui – bui1 bui3
2. f – ui – fui – fui1 fui3

TIPS!



Cantonese Sound	IPA	Similar English Sound
Final ui	[u:i] or [u:y]	There is no similar English sound for the final ui.

13 ~ The Final eoi

The final eoi is formed by the vowels eo and i.

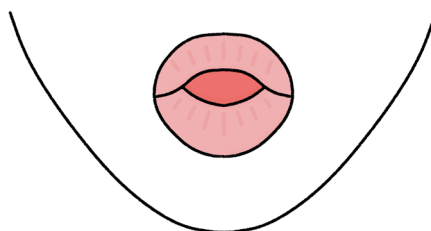
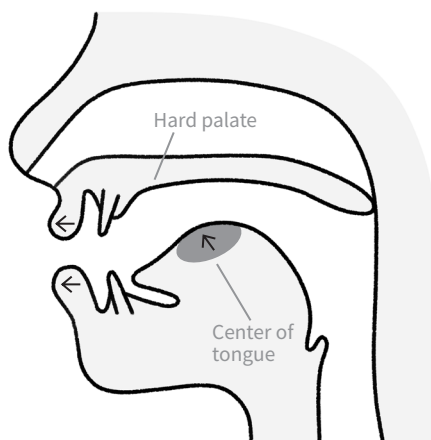
 **Step 1**  40 Listen to the final eoi.

eoi – eoi – eoi – eoi – eoi

 **Step 2**  41 Listen and repeat. Pay attention to your mouth shape. Use a mirror to check it if needed.

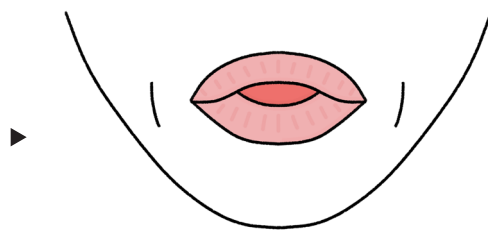
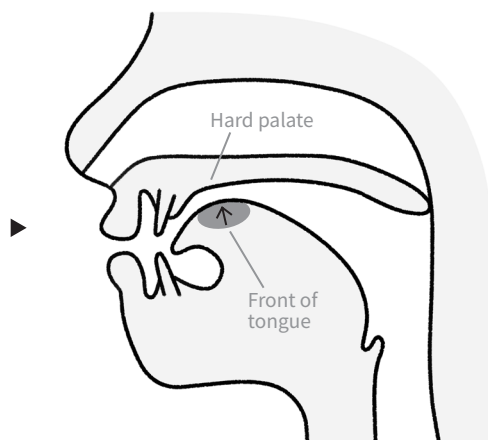
eoi – eoi – eoi – eoi – eoi

Hard palate
The part of your upper jaw just behind your alveolar ridge



Tongue Position: Raise the center of your tongue toward your hard palate a little.

Lip Shape: Round your lips a little. Your lips will move forward a little.



Tongue Position: Move the front of your tongue toward your hard palate until they are almost in contact. You will feel the left and right sides of your tongue touch your upper teeth.

Lip Shape: While keep rounding your lips, spread your lips.



Practice 42 Practice saying the syllables with the final eoi. Listen and repeat.

1. d – eoi – deoi – deoi1 deoi2 deoi3
2. s – eoi – seoi – seoi1 seoi2 seoi3
3. c – eoi – ceoi – ceoi1 ceoi2 ceoi3

 TIPS!

Cantonese Sound	IPA	Similar English Sound
Final eoi	[ɵi] or [ɵy]	There is no similar English sound for the final eoi.

14 ~ Revision Section A




- ① Recall the initials you have learned in this lesson. Write them below.

z	c
---	---

- ② Recall the finals you have learned in this lesson. Add the finals ending with the vowel i to the table.

	aa	a	e	i	o	u	eo
-i	aai	ai	ei		oi	ui	eo

- ③ Recall the tones you have learned so far. Write the tone numbers and tone names and draw the tones.

Tone Number	Tone 1	Tone 2	Tone 3
Tone Name	High level	Mid rising	Mid level
Diagram			

Instructions for Questions ④ to ⑦

Follow the steps below to complete each question.

Step 1: Say the sound, syllable or word aloud yourself.

Step 2: Listen to the recording and compare your pronunciation to the recording.

Step 3: Follow the recording and say the sound, syllable or word again.

④  43 Say the sounds below.




Initials


1. b	2. p	3. d	4. t	5. g	6. k	7. f	8. s
9. z	10. c						

Finals


	1. aa	2. a	3. e	4. i	5. o	6. u	7. eo
-i	8. aai	9. ai	10. ei		11. oi	12. ui	13. eoi

⑤  44 Say the syllable si with the tones below.


Tone Number	Tone 1	Tone 2	Tone 3
Tone Name	High level	Mid rising	Mid level
Diagram			
High			
Mid			
Low			

⑥  45 Say the syllables below.

- | | | | |
|----------|---------|---------|-----------|
| 1. paai3 | 2. bui1 | 3. tai2 | 4. ci3 |
| 5. fu3 | 6. doi2 | 7. kei2 | 8. ga3 |
| 9. saa1 | 10. fe1 | 11. so1 | 12. zeoi3 |

 46 If you find this question challenging, practice with the additional recording. In the additional recording, you will hear:

Initial	Final	Syllable	Syllable in Tones	Answer
p	- aai	- paai	- paai1 paai2 paai3	- paai3
b	- ui	- bui	- bui1	- bui1

⑦  47 Say the words below.

1. 雞 gai1 *chicken*
2. 水 seoi2 *water*
3. 叉 caa1 *fork*
4. 筷子 faai3 zi2 *chopsticks*
5. 汽水 hei3 seoi2 *soft drink*

15 ~ Revision Section B




- ① Recall the initials you have learned in this lesson. Write them below.

z	c
---	---

- ② Recall the finals you have learned in this lesson. Add the finals ending with the vowel i to the table.

	aa	a	e	i	o	u	eo
-i	aai	ai	ei		oi	ui	eo

- ③ Recall the tones you have learned so far. Write the tone numbers and tone names and draw the tones.

Tone Number	Tone 1	Tone 2	Tone 3
Tone Name	High level	Mid rising	Mid level
Diagram			


Instructions for Questions ④ to ⑦

Follow the steps below to complete each question.

Step 1: Say the sound, syllable or word aloud yourself.

Step 2: Listen to the recording and compare your pronunciation to the recording.

Step 3: Follow the recording and say the sound, syllable or word again.

④  48 Say the sounds below.




Initials


1. b	2. p	3. d	4. t	5. g	6. k	7. f	8. s
9. z	10. c						

Finals


	1. aa	2. a	3. e	4. i	5. o	6. u	7. eo
-i	8. aai	9. ai	10. ei		11. oi	12. ui	13. eoi

⑤  49 Say the syllable si with the tones below.


Tone Number	Tone 1	Tone 2	Tone 3
Tone Name	High level	Mid rising	Mid level
Diagram			

⑥  50 Say the syllables below.

- | | | | |
|---------|---------|-----------|----------|
| 1. faa1 | 2. coi3 | 3. ze2 | 4. sai2 |
| 5. kei3 | 6. gu1 | 7. ci1 | 8. teoi1 |
| 9. bui3 | 10. po2 | 11. daai2 | 12. za3 |

 51 If you find this question challenging, practice with the additional recording. In the additional recording, you will hear:

Initial	Final	Syllable	Syllable in Tones	Answer
f	- aa	- faa	- faa1	- faa1
c	- oi	- coi	- coi1 coi2 coi3	- coi3

⑦  52 Say the words below.

1. 杯 bui1 *cup*
2. 枱 toi2 *table*
3. 遮 ze1 *umbrella*
4. 飛機 fei1 gei1 *plane*
5. 菠菜 bo1 coi3 *spinach*

- ⑧ Listen to the following song. Complete the syllables in green with the finals ending with the vowel i. Note that each ○ below represents one syllable.



好好地過 hou2 hou2 dei6 gwo3

RubberBand

- 0:18 每 m ui 5 ○ ○○○○
- 0:24 ○ 概 k oi 3 ○○○ ○○○○
- 0:30 ○ 街 g aai 1 ○○○○
- 0:35 ○○ 西 s ai 1 ○ ○○ ○○
- 0:44 ○○○ ○○○○
- 0:51 你 n ei 5 ○○○○ ○ ○○
- 0:56 ○○ 會 w ui 5 ○○ ○○○○ ○○○○
- 1:01 歸 gw ai 1 ○○○○ ○○○○
- 1:08 ○ ○○○○
- 1:14 ○○○○ ○ 在 z oi 6 ○○
- 1:20 ○○○ ○○○○ ○○ ○○○
- 1:25 ○○○○○○
- 1:28 ○ 虛 h eoi 1 ○○○○
- 1:34 ○○○○○○ 氣 h ei 3
- 1:37 ○○ ○○○○
- 1:40 ○○ ○○○○○○
- 1:43 ○○○ ○○○○
- 1:46 ○○○○○○ 裡 l eoi 5
- 1:49 ○○○ ○○○○
- 1:52 ○○○○○○
- 1:57 ○○ 太 t aai 3 ○