The style of speech illustrated is that typical of the educated younger generation in Beijing. The recording is that of a 25-year-old female graduate student who has lived all her life in Beijing.

### Consonants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bilabial</th>
<th>Labiodental</th>
<th>Dental</th>
<th>Alveolar</th>
<th>Post-alveolar</th>
<th>Palatal</th>
<th>Velar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plosive</td>
<td>p pʰ</td>
<td>t tʰ</td>
<td>k kʰ</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Affricate</td>
<td>ts tsʰ</td>
<td>tf tfʰ</td>
<td>tc tcʰ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nasal</td>
<td>m</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>η</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fricative</td>
<td>f σ</td>
<td>s sʰ</td>
<td>j c x</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approximant</td>
<td>w</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>j j</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lateral</td>
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<td>l</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples:

- p̄a ‘eight’
- t̄a ‘to build’
- k̄a ‘song’
- pʰ ‘to lie prone’
- tʰ ‘he/she’
- kʰ ‘subject’
- m ma ‘mother’
- n na ‘to include’
- η an ‘dirty’
- f fa ‘to send’
- s sa ‘to cast’
- f̄a ‘sand’
- x x̄ ‘to drink’
- ts tsʰ ‘to circle’
- tʃ tʃʰ ‘residue’
- tʃʰ ‘to insert’
- c ci ‘shrimp’
- tɕ tɕʰ ‘to add’
- tɕʰ ‘to nip off’
- w wa ‘frog’
- l la ‘to pull’
- j ja ‘person’
- j ja ‘duck’
Syllabic consonants

\[ ʃ \] ‘to think’
\[ ŋ \] ‘poem’

Vowels

\[ i \] ‘clothes’
\[ ɪ \] ‘sound’
\[ y \] ‘fish’
\[ ɨ \] ‘dizzy’
\[ a \] ‘to send’
\[ æ \] ‘son’
\[ u \] ‘house’
\[ ʊ \] ‘goose’

Diphthongs

\[ ai \] ‘sorrow’
\[ au \] ‘hollow’
\[ ou \] ‘Europe’
\[ ie \] ‘to speak’
\[ ei \] ‘black’
\[ ye \] ‘boot’
\[ ye \] ‘to announce’
\[ ie \] ‘some’
\[ ia \] ‘shrimp’
\[ ua \] ‘flower’
\[ uə \] ‘to announce’
\[ iu \] ‘chest’

Triphthongs

\[ iau \] ‘to disappear’
\[ uai \] ‘to fall down’
\[ iou \] ‘to rest’
\[ uei \] ‘ash’

Tones (citation forms)

\[ [\text{h}] \] (high level)
\[ [\text{m}] \] (mid to high rising)
\[ [\text{l}] \] (mid to low to mid dipping)
\[ [\text{n}] \] (high to low falling)

\[ [\text{p}]\text{a} \] ‘eight’
\[ [\text{p}]\text{a} \] ‘to pull out’
\[ [\text{p}]\text{a} \] ‘to hold’
\[ [\text{p}]\text{a} \] ‘father’

Conventions

Consonants, syllabic consonants, vowels, diphthongs, and triphthongs

Syllable-initial [t, ź, n] and syllable-final [n] are apico-laminal denti-alveolar; syllable-initial [su, ts, tsʰ] are apico-laminal or laminal denti-alveolar; syllable-initial [ʃ, ź, źʃ, źh] are apical post-alveolar; syllable-initial [c] is lamino-anterodorsal post-alveolar or pre-palatal; syllable-initial [tɕ, tɕʰ] are apico-anterodorsal or lamino-anterodorsal alveolo-palatal; and
syllable-initial [i] is apical dento-alveolar or apical alveolar. [e, tc, tsʰ] occur only before [i] or [y]. Voiceless syllable-initial obstruents often become voiced when the following rhyme is associated with the neutral tone. [m] occurs only in syllable-initial position; [n] occurs in both syllable-initial and syllable-final positions; and [ŋ] occurs only in syllable-final position. [w] has a free variant form of [u].

[i] occurs only in isolation or after [s, ts, tsʰ, ʃ, tʃ, tʃʰ]. [i] in isolation or when following [ʃ, tʃ, tʃʰ] is a syllabic apical post-alveolar approximant; when following [s, ts, tsʰ] it is a syllabic apico-laminal or laminal dento-alveolar approximant. Syllabic apico-laminal or laminal dento-alveolar and syllabic apical post-alveolar approximants, often called apical vowels, occur only in open syllables.

Vowels [i, y, a, u] occur in open syllables as well as syllables closed by a nasal; [y] occurs only in open syllables. In open syllables, [i, y, u] are about cardinal, [a] = [a], and [y] is slightly diphthongized from [u] to [a]. In syllables closed by a nasal, [i, y] are about cardinal, [a] = [a], and [u] = [u]. [a] is a plain mid-central schwa in syllables closed by a nasal; in open syllables [a] is rhotacized, i.e. [ə].

Diphthongs [ai, au, ou, ei] occur only in open syllables; [ie, ia, ye, ua] occur in open syllables and syllables closed by a nasal; and [ø, uø] occur only in syllables closed by a nasal. [ai] = [ai], [au] = [au], [ou] = [ou], [io] = [io], [ei] = [ei], [ie] = [ie], [ye] = [ye], [ua] = [ua], and [ui] = [ui].

All triphthongs occur only in open syllables. [iau, uai, iou, uei], [a] = [a], [ø] = [ø], and [e] = [e].

A rhyme which may be a monophthong, diphthong, triphthong, ‘vowel+nasal’, or ‘diphthong+nasal’ may undergo er-hua. er-hua refers to suffixation of a rhotacized subsyllabic [ə] to a rhyme, or to rhotacization of a vowel or a sequence of two vowels in a rhyme. In the cases where the rhyme ends with [ø], [y] or [u], the vowel is rhotacized, i.e. [ø], [y] or [u], instead of the diphthong or triphthong ends with [i] or [e], [i] or [e] is deleted. Thus, [i, y, a, u, y] → [iə, yə, ə, aə, ur, y], respectively; [ie, ye, ai, ei, ia, ua, uo, au] → [iə, yə, aə, əə, uə, uə, ou, ou, ar], respectively; and [uai, uei, iou, iau] → [uaə, uəə, io ur, iur], respectively. In the cases where the rhyme ends with [n], the nasal ending is deleted. Thus, [in, yn, an, an] → [iə, yə, əə, aə], respectively; and [ien, yen, uan, uan] → [iəə, yəə, uəə, uəə], respectively. And, in the cases where the rhyme ends with [ŋ], the nasal ending is deleted and the rhyme is nasalized. Thus, [in, an, an, uŋ] → [iə, əə, əə, ʊ], respectively; and [ian, uan, iuŋ] → [iə, əə, iəık, iəık], respectively.

**Tones**

[-] on monosyllables may realize as [i] or [i]+silence+[-]. On compounds, [-] → [i] before another [-], and [-] → [i] before [i, a, u] or the neutral tone; and optionally, [i] → [i] after [i] or [i] and before any tone, and [i] → [i] or [i] before another [i]. On a component syllable of a compound, [-], [-], [-] or [i] may lose its citation form and become the neutral tone. The pitch value for the neutral tone varies, depending mainly on the preceding citation tone. The general rules are: (i) when following [i], (v) when following [i], (i) when following [-i], or (j) when following [v].

**Transcription of recorded passage**

iou i¹ xuei¹ | pei¹ fəŋ¹ kan¹ tʰai¹ ian(ː) tʃəŋ¹ tsai¹ naən tʃəŋ¹ luəŋ fei¹ da(ː) pən¹ liŋ¹ taŋ || jufou¹ dʒə(ː) jufou¹ tʃə(ː) | lai¹ la(ː) ɬi kə(ː) kuon¹ luŋ ta(ː) | jəŋ¹ jəŋ¹ jəŋ¹ tʃəuəŋ¹ la(ː) i¹ tʃəi¹ xoŋ¹ pʰau¹ tsi¹(ː) || tʰə¹ məŋ¹ liŋ¹ tʃiou(ː) jəŋ¹ jəŋ¹ jəŋ¹ tʃəuəŋ¹ la(ː) || jufou¹ | fei¹ məŋ¹ cien¹ tʃiæu¹ tʃeŋ¹ kə(ː) kuon¹ luŋ ta(ː) pən¹ dʰia¹ tə(ː) pʰau¹ tsi¹(ː) tʰuo¹ ciaŋ¹ lai¹ | tʃiou¹ suan¹ ʒi¹ (ː) tʰa¹ da(ː) pən¹ liŋ¹ taŋ ||

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Notes

1. The palatographic and linguagraphic data collected by the authors of this study from the native speakers of Beijing, male and female, in their early twenties show that there are no retroflex sounds in their speech.

2. [ʃ], an apical post-alveolar approximant, in this study was transcribed as [ʂ], representing a voiced apical pre-palatal fricative in Karlgren (1915–1926) and as [ʃ], representing a retroflex approximant in Chao (1968).

3. [ʃ, tʃ, tʃʰ], apical post-alveolar fricative and affricates, in this study were transcribed as [ʃ, ts, tsʰ], representing apical pre-palatal fricative and affricates in Karlgren (1915–1926) and as [ʃ, ts, tsʰ], representing retroflex fricative and affricates in Chao (1968).

4. [ʃ], a syllabic apico-laminal or laminal denti-alveolar approximant when following [s, ts, tʃ], in this study was transcribed as [ʃ], representing an apical alveolar vowel in Karlgren (1915–1926) and as [ʃ], representing a syllabic voiced dental fricative in Chao (1968).

5. [ʃ], a syllabic apical post-alveolar approximant when following [ʃ, tʃ, tʃʰ] or in isolation, in this study was transcribed as [ʃ], representing an apical post-alveolar vowel in Karlgren (1915–1926) and as [ʃ], representing a syllabic retroflex approximant in Chao (1968).

6. The non-IPA symbols, [ʃ] and [ʃ], representing the ‘apical vowels’ in the Peking (Beijing) dialect first appeared in Karlgren (1915–1926) and are widely used by the linguists in China.

References
