

# Pīnyīn Bīngǔǒ

Prep Time: 10-20 min

**Aim:** To practice discriminating between similar sounds in Chinese and the sounds related to Pinyin  
**Level:** Elementary  
**Time:** 5-10 minutes  
**Materials:** A bīngǔǒ board for each student  
**Arrangement:** Whole class or small groups

## Description

Using the game Bingo, students focus on hearing small phonetic differences.

## In Class

- 1 Give each student a bingo board.
- 2 The teacher has her own board. She randomly reads a word from the bingo board and puts a mark by it so that she remembers which words she has already read.
- 3 Students check off the words on their boards as they hear them.
- 4 Whenever a student gets four in a row they say 'Bīngǔǒ,' however...
- 5 The *last* student to get four in a row wins. (This is so that the game lasts as long as possible, thus creating more opportunities for listening, which is really the point.)

## Examples of Bingo Boards

<b>Bīngǔǒ</b>			
dōu	wǒ	duō	chī
shuǐ	xiǎo	dùzi	xuě
wǔ	chē	něige	shǎo
nèige	zhū	tùzi	zū

<b>Bīngǔǒ</b>			
dùzi	dōu	chī	chē
wǔ	duō	tùzi	xiǎo
xuě	shǎo	wǒ	něige
shuǐ	zū	zhū	nèige

## Variations

- ✓ Once students know the game, the teacher can simply choose a list of 16 words, read them, or write them on the chalkboard and have the students fill in their own blank boards with the words. Be sure to choose words that have similar sounds.
- ✓ A student could be in charge of choosing the 16 words as an assignment.
- ✓ Obviously, this activity would also work with systems other than Pinyin.

## Notes

I'm almost certain this is not a new idea for teaching Chinese pronunciation. Bingo is just about the most over-used language game there is. Nevertheless, just in case someone hasn't heard of it, or hasn't thought of using it in this way, here it is.