

# Pronunciation Mazes

Prep Time: 5 min

**Aim:** To focus on sometimes confusing Chinese sounds and Pinyin spellings through the use of a maze  
**Level:** Elementary  
**Time:** 5-10 minutes, or as homework  
**Materials:** A copy of the maze for each student  
**Arrangement:** Individually or in pairs

## Description

In order to complete a maze, students must pay attention to specific sounds of Chinese and their related Pinyin spellings.

## In Class

- 1 Hand out a copy of the maze to each student.
- 2 Students need to find a path through the maze by following the instructions. The iMaze and AEIO Maze may require some guidance from the teacher to make sure students choose the right path. The uMaze is self-correcting, that is, if students make a wrong choice they will find out very quickly when they come to a dead end.
- 3 Once everyone is finished, read aloud through the correct path together.

## Variations

- ✓ This could easily be done as homework. Spend a few minutes in class introducing how the maze works, then students do it on their own outside of class.
- ✓ This could work for romanization systems other than Pinyin.

## Notes

Students often find the connections between certain Pinyin letters and Chinese sounds to be particularly tricky. A maze focussing on one sound or a few sounds can be a good way to add variety to pronunciation practice, as well as motivating students to want to pay attention to something as dull as the sounds associated with letters. As with Tone Mazes, the inspiration for these mazes came from *Pronunciation Games*, by Mark Hancock.

## iMaze Solution:

jī	lǐ	nǐ	shì	dǐ
bǐ	chī	xī	rì	zǐ
zhǐ	sǐ	pì	qī	mì
tī	dì	zì	chǐ	xǐ
shí	jì	qì	lí	yī
lì	ní	rì	cì	zhí
mǐ	sì	xí	tí	pǐ
jǐ	yǐ	bì	chì	nì
bí	shī	dī	zī	qǐ