

**Shifting
Third Tone
Puzzle**

Though we often describe the third tone as a falling-rising tone, most often when we speak the third tone has a simpler shape, changing to flow more smoothly with the tones that follow it. If it comes before another third tone, it becomes a high-rising tone (aka a second tone). If it comes before any other tone or a neutral tone, it becomes a low-falling tone (aka 'half-third tone').

In the puzzle that follows, each sentence has a word with a highlighted third tone. If it should become a low-falling tone, take a trip down the slide. If it should become a rising tone, climb up the ladder. If you choose the right answer, the number will guide you to another sentence and eventually to the finish. If you choose the wrong answer, there will be no number to match your choice.

Start **1** **Wǒ xǐhuan dǎ lánqiú.** **2**

19 **Wǒ xǐhuan dǎ páqiú.** **18**

11 **Wǒ bú tài máng.** **13**

9 **Nǐ dào nǎr qù a?** **8**

21 **Women dōu hěn lèi.** **23**

3 **Wǒ xǐhuan hē kāfēi.** **1**

15 **Nǐ yǒu méiyǒu chē?** **17**

21 **Hǎo jiǔ bú jiàn le!** **20**

4 **Nǐ hǎo qíguài.** **5**

15 **Wǒ jiějie hěn gāo.** **14**

10 **Tā tīng jǐnzhāng de.** **11**

7 **Nǐ hěn máng ba.** **5**

12 **8**