

Pronunciation Paths

Prep Time: 5-10 min

Aim: To help students differentiate sounds and recognize Pinyin spellings
Level: Elementary
Time: 5-10 minutes
Materials: A copy of the pronunciation paths map for each student
Arrangement: Whole class

Description

An activity where students must properly discriminate sounds in order to arrive at the correct destination on a 'map.'

In Class

- 1 Write a list of previously learned words in two columns on the board. The list should be made of pairs of words that sound almost the same. Write one word from each pair in different columns. Label one column 'LEFT' and the other 'RIGHT.'
- 2 Read through the columns together and make sure the students know what the words mean.
- 3 Hand out the pronunciation path maps.
- 4 Read a word from one of the columns. If it is from the LEFT columns, the students take the path to the left. If it is from the RIGHT column, the students take the path to the right. Make sure you also know which path to follow.
- 5 Repeat this with three more words. Then ask the students, 'Nǐmen zài nǎr?'
- 6 If the students heard correctly, they should all end up in the same place you did.

Example

Words:	<u>LEFT</u>	<u>RIGHT</u>
bā	bà	
jiǔ	jiù	
něige	nèige	
jǔ	jǐ	
duō	dōu	
cì	sì	

Teacher says: **jiǔ... dōu... cì... bā** (*Left, right, left, left on the map.*)

The correct destination is **Xiānggǎng**.

Variations

- ✓ You can read sentences with the words in them. Whenever the students hear one of the words, they go the corresponding direction.
- ✓ You can add a character recognition aspect to this if you change the destinations to recent characters the students have learned. (Just white out the destinations on the map and write in your characters.)

Notes

This is just a Chinese version of an activity from Mark Hancock's *Pronunciation Games*. It's a great little exercise that can be done very quickly as a way to target words students are struggling with.

