

Tongue twisters are ideal for pronunciation practice

In Chinese, tongue twisters (绕口令 *ràokǒulìng*) repeat similar consonants and vowels that are easy to mix up to make them difficult to say. "Raokouling" have a distinctive rhythm that make them fun to read out loud, motivating you to keep practicing until you can say them.

If you've grown bored of pronunciation practice or if you're having trouble pronouncing certain sounds, try including "raokouling" in your practice. And if you get the chance, show off the "raokouling" you've learned for your Chinese friends.

NOTE: At times you may feel that parts of the original text or English translations sound unnatural, but the reason for this is that these sentences are designed first and foremost for practicing pronunciation.

How to study with this course

The 76 "raokouling" in the course are divided by consonant and vowel types. You can practice them in any order, so listen to them first and choose what you'd like to start with.

(1) Select a movie from the list to play your practice movie.

(2) The subtitles change color in time with the voice, allowing you to follow along and pick up the natural places to pause that aren't obvious from the punctuation as well as practice by imitating the narrator's inflection.

(3) The "slow version" plays each character along with subtitles so that you can properly pronounce them, and you can pass this stage once you have become able to read them smoothly. Please try the "fast version" once you have gained enough confidence and skill.

The subtitles change color
in time with the voice



Chī pútao bù tǔ pútaopír,
吃 葡萄 不 吐 葡萄皮儿,
bù chī pútao dào tǔ pútaopír.
不 吃 葡萄 倒 吐 葡萄皮儿。

NOTE: Start with the slow version to pay attention to each individual sound, and practice carefully to get as close as possible to the narrator. The more correct your pronunciation, the faster you will get without even trying.

About the PDF text in this course

In addition to the Chinese text, the PDF text in this course lists the English translation and footnotes as well.

Chinese Text and Pinyin	Lecture Number
bā bǎi biāobīng 八百标兵	R002 Practice: b p
Bā bǎi biāobīng bèn běipō, 八百 ⁽¹⁾ 标兵奔北坡, pàobīng bìngpái běibian pǎo. 炮兵 ⁽²⁾ 并排北边跑。 Pàobīng pà bǎ biāobīng pèng, 炮兵怕把标兵碰, biāobīng pà pèng pàobīng pào. 标兵怕碰炮兵炮。	(1) 标兵 [biāobīng] n. parade guards (2) 并排 [bìngpái] v. be side by side
<p>English</p> <p>800 parade guards running towards slope in the north, Artillerymen running with them by the north side. Artillerymen are afraid of touching the parade guards, And the parade guards are afraid of touching the artillerymen's cannons.</p>	Footnotes
English Translation	