

Practice for Vowels (3)

Compound Vowels 2

iao iou uai uei

niǎo kàn biǎo

鸟看表

R045

Practice: iao

Shuǐ shàng piāozhe yì zhī biǎo,

水上漂着一只表，

biǎo shàng luòzhe yì zhī niǎo.

表上落着一只鸟。

Niǎo kàn biǎo, biǎo dèng niǎo,

鸟看表，表⁽¹⁾瞪鸟，

niǎo bú rènshi biǎo,

鸟不认识表，

biǎo yě bú rènshi niǎo.

表也不认识鸟。

English

On the water's surface, floats a watch,

Above the watch, a bird descends.

The bird sees the watch, the watch stares at the bird,

The bird doesn't comprehend the watch,

The watch also doesn't comprehend the bird.

(1) 瞪 [dèng] v.
stare, glare

māo nào niǎo

R046

猫闹鸟

Practice: ao iao

Dōngbian miào li yǒu ge māo,
东边庙里有个猫，

xībian shùshāo yǒu zhī niǎo.
西边树梢有只鸟。

Māo niǎo tiāntiān nào,
猫鸟天天闹，

Bù zhī shì māo nào shù shàng niǎo,
不知是猫闹树上鸟，

Háishi niǎo nào miào li māo.
还是鸟闹庙里猫。

English

In the eastern temple there's a cat,

In the western treetops there's a bird.

Every day the cat and the bird have a spat,

I don't know if it's the cat pestering the bird on the tree,

Or if it's the bird pestering the cat in the temple.

jiǔ huàn yóu
酒 换 油

Practice: iou

Yì húlu jiǔ, jiǔ liǎng liù.
一 葫 芦 酒, 九⁽¹⁾ 两 六。

Yì húlu yóu, liù liǎng jiǔ.
一 葫 芦 油, 六 两 九。

Liù liǎng jiǔ de yóu, yào huàn jiǔ liǎng liù de jiǔ,
六 两 九 的 油, 要 换 九 两 六 的 酒,
jiǔ liǎng liù de jiǔ, bú huàn liù liǎng jiǔ de yóu.
九 两 六 的 酒, 不 换 六 两 九 的 油。

English

A gourd of wine, 9.6 liang.

A gourd of oil, 6.9 liang.

Want to trade 6.9 liang of oil for 9.6 liang of wine?

I won't trade 9.6 liang of wine, for 6.9 liang of oil.

(1) 两 [liǎng] measure word
liang (unit of weight, equal
to 50 grams)

Tóng sháo hé tiě sháo

R048

铜勺和铁勺

Practice: ao iao iou

Tóng sháo yǎo rè yóu,
铜勺舀热油，

tiě sháo yǎo liáng yóu.
铁勺舀凉油。

Tóng sháo yǎole rè yóu yǎo liáng yóu,
铜勺舀了热油舀凉油，

tiě sháo yǎole liáng yóu yǎo rè yóu.
铁勺舀了凉油舀热油。

Yì sháo rè yóu yì sháo liáng yóu,
一勺热油一勺凉油，

rè yóu liáng yóu dōu shì yóu.
热油凉油都是油。

English

Copper spoon ladles out hot oil,

Iron spoon ladles out cold oil.

Copper spoon ladled hot oil and ladles cold oil

Iron spoon ladled cold oil and ladles hot oil.

One spoon hot oil, one spoon cold oil,

Hot oil, cold oil, both are oil.

(1) 舀 [yǎo] v.

ladle out

huái shù huái
槐 树 槐

Practice: uai ai

Huái shù huái, huái shù huái,
槐 树 槐, 槐 树 槐,
huáishù dǐxia dā xìtái,
槐 树 底 下 搭⁽¹⁾ 戏 台,
rénjia de gūniang dōu lái le,
⁽²⁾ 人 家 的 姑 娘 都 来 了,
wǒ jiā de gūniang hái bù lái.
我 家 的 姑 娘 还 不 来。
Shuōzhe shuōzhe jiù lái le,
⁽³⁾ 说 着 说 着 就 来 了,
qízhe lú, dǎzhe sǎn,
骑 着 驴, 打 着 伞,
wāizhe nǎodai shàng xìtái.
歪 着⁽⁴⁾ 脑 袋 上 戏 台。

English

Locust tree, locust tree,
A stage is erected at the base of the locust tree,
Young women from all of the houses have come,
The young women from my house still haven't come.
Just as I say this, they arrive,
Riding donkeys, clutching umbrellas,
Tilting their heads as they climb up on the stage.

- (1) 戏台 [xìtái] n.
stage
(2) 人家 [rénjia] pron.
everybody else
(3) v1 着 + v1 着 + v2
used to indicate that v2
occurs in the process of v1
(4) 脑袋 [nǎodai] n.
head

zuǐ hé tuǐ
嘴和腿

Practice: uei

Zuǐ shuō tuǐ, tuǐ shuō zuǐ,
嘴⁽¹⁾说腿, 腿说嘴,

zuǐ shuō tuǐ ài pǎo tuǐ,
嘴说腿爱⁽²⁾跑腿,

tuǐ shuō zuǐ ài mài zuǐ.
腿说嘴爱⁽³⁾卖嘴。

Guāng dòng zuǐ bú dòng tuǐ,
光动嘴不动腿,

guāng dòng tuǐ bú dòng zuǐ,
光动腿不动嘴,

bùrú bù zhǎng tuǐ hé zuǐ.
不如不长腿和嘴。

English

Lips criticizes legs, legs criticizes lips,
Lips complains legs loves doing legwork,
Legs complains lips loves to give lip.
Only moving the lips and not moving the legs,
Only moving the legs and not moving the lips,
Is worse than not having legs and lips.

(1) 说 [shuō] v.
criticize

(2) 跑腿 [pǎo tuǐ] v.
run errands

(3) 卖嘴 [mài zuǐ] v.
indulge in clever talk