

## Practice for Consonants (6)

**Dental sibilant**

z c s

zuò zǎocāo  
做早操

Practice: z c

Zǎochēn zǎozǎo qǐ,  
早晨 早早 起，  
zǎo qǐ zuò zǎocāo.  
早起 做早操。  
Rénrén zuò zǎocāo,  
人人 做早操，  
zuò cāo shēntǐ hǎo.  
做操 身体好。

## English

Wake up very early in the early morning,  
Wake up early and do morning exercises.  
Everyone does the morning exercise,  
Exercise and you'll be in good shape.

Cuī Cūtuǐ hé Cuī Tuǐcū  
崔粗腿 和 崔腿粗

Practice: c t

Shān qián yǒu ge Cuī Cūtuǐ,  
山 前 有 个 崔粗腿，  
shān hòu yǒu ge Cuī Tuǐcū,  
山 后 有 个 崔腿粗，  
èr rén shān qián lái bǐ tuǐ.  
二 人 山 前 来 比 腿。

Bù zhī shì Cuī Cūtuǐ bǐ Cuī Tuǐcū de tuǐ cū,  
(1) 不 知 是 崔粗腿 比 崔腿粗 的 腿 粗，  
háishi Cuī Tuǐcū bǐ Cuī Cūtuǐ de tuǐ cū.  
还 是 崔腿粗 比 崔粗腿 的 腿 粗。

## English

In front of the mountain there's a Cui Thickleg,  
Behind the mountain there's a Cui Legthick,  
The two met in front of the mountain to compare  
legs.  
No one knows if Cui Thickleg's legs are thicker  
than Cui Legthick's,  
Or if Cui Legthick's legs are thicker than Cui  
Thickleg's.

(1) 不知  
don't know

sījī mǎi cíjī  
司机买雌鸡

Practice: z c s j x

sījī mǎi cíjī,  
司机买雌鸡,  
zǐxì kàn cíjī,  
仔细看雌鸡,  
sì zhī xiǎo cíjī,  
四只小雌鸡,  
jījī <sup>(1)</sup>hǎo <sup>(2)</sup>huānxǐ,  
叽叽 <sup>(1)</sup>好 <sup>(2)</sup>欢喜,  
sījī xiàoxīxī.  
司机笑嘻嘻。

## English

A driver buys some chickens,  
He conscientiously checks the chickens,  
A quartet of small chickens,  
They cheep cheep so cheerfully,  
The driver chortles cheerily.

(1) 好 [hǎo] adv.  
very, quite

(2) 欢喜 [huānxǐ] adj.  
delighted

sāngshān

桑山

R023

Practice: s sh

Shàng sāngshān,

上 桑山，

kǎn shān sāng,

砍 山 桑，

bēizhe shān sāng xià sāngshān.

背 着 山 桑 下 桑 山。

English

Climb mulberry tree mountain,

Cut down the mountain's mulberry trees,

Carry the mountain's mulberry trees on your back down mulberry tree mountain.

sī chán cán  
丝缠蚕

R024

Practice: s c ch

Sāngcán tǔ sī sī chán cán,  
(1) 桑蚕吐丝丝 (2) 缠蚕，  
cánsī chán cán cán tǔ sī.  
蚕丝缠蚕蚕吐丝。

English

Silkworms spit silk, silk swathes silkworm,  
Silkworm silk swathes silkworm, silkworm spits silk.

(1) 桑蚕 [sāngcán] n.  
silkworm

(2) 缠 [chán] v.  
wind, swathe

cán hé chán

# 蚕和蝉

R025

Practice: c ch

Zhè shì cán, nà shì chán,

这是蚕，那是<sup>(1)</sup>蝉，

cán cháng zài yè li cáng,

蚕常在叶里藏，

chán cháng zài lín li chàng.

蝉常在林里唱。

## English

This is a silkworm, that's a cicada,

The silkworm is usually concealed in the leaves,

The cicada is usually singing in the forest.

(1) 蝉 [chán] n.

cicada

## 登山

Practice: s sh

Sān yuè sān, xiǎo Sān qù dēng shān.

三月三，小三去登山。

Shàng shān yòu xià shān, xià shān yòu shàng shān.

上山又下山，下山又上山。

Dēng le sān cì shān, pǎo le sān lǐ sān.

登了三次山，跑了三<sup>(1)</sup>里三。

Chū le yì shēn hàn, shī le sān jiàn shān.

出了一身汗，湿了三件衫。

Xiǎo Sān zhàn zài shān shang dà shēng hǎn:

小三站在山上大声喊：

“Zhèlǐ lí tiān zhǐ yǒu sān chǐ sān.”

“这里离天只有三<sup>(2)</sup>尺三。”

## English

On the third day of the third month, Little Three went mountain climbing.

Up the mountain then down the mountain, down the mountain then up the mountain.

He climbed the mountain three times, running 3.3 li.

His whole body broke into sweat, soaking three shirts.

Little Three stopped on the mountain top and yelled in a loud voice, "This place is only 3.3 chi away from the heavens"

(1) 里 [lǐ] measure word  
li (unit of length, equal to 500 metres or a half kilometer)

(2) 尺 [chǐ] measure word  
chi (unit of length, equal to 0.333 meter)



sān shān chēng sì shuǐ  
三 山 撑 四 水

Practice: s sh ch

Sān shān chēng sì shuǐ,  
三 山 <sup>(1)</sup>撑 四 水,  
sì shuǐ rào sān shān,  
四 水 绕 三 山,  
sān shān sì shuǐ chūn cháng zài,  
三 山 四 水 春 常 在,  
sì shuǐ sān shān sì shí chūn.  
四 水 三 山 <sup>(2)</sup>四 时 春。

English

Three mountains fill four rivers,  
Four rivers coil around three mountains,  
Three mountains and four rivers, it is often spring,  
Four rivers and three mountains, four seasons like  
spring.

(1) 撑 [chēng] v.  
prop up, support

(2) 四时  
four seasons = 四季 [sìjì]

zǐ sīxiàn zhī zǐ shīzi  
紫 丝 线 织 紫 狮子

R028

Practice: z s zh ch sh j q x

Shì jiāng sìshiqī zhī jí xì jí xì de zǐ sīxiàn,  
试<sup>(1)</sup> 将 四 十 七 支 极 细 极 细 的 紫 丝 线，

shì zhī sìshiqī zhī jí xì jí xì de zǐ shīzi.  
试 织 四 十 七 只 极 细 极 细 的 紫 狮子。

Ràng xì zǐ sīxiàn shì zhī xì zǐ shīzi,  
让 细 紫 丝 线 试 织 细 紫 狮子，

xì zǐ sīxiàn què zhī chéng le sǐ zǐ shīzi.  
细 紫 丝 线 却 织 成 了 死 紫 狮子。

Zǐ shīzi zhī bu chéng,  
紫 狮子 织 不 成，

chě duàn le xì zǐ sīxiàn.  
<sup>(2)</sup> 扯 断 了 细 紫 丝 线。

### English

Try to take 47 very, very fine purple silk strands,

Try to weave 47 very, very fine purple lions.

Take fine purple silk strands and try to weave a fine purple lion,

Fine purple silk strands indeed wove a dead purple lion.

The purple lions couldn't be woven,

I yanked apart the fine purple silk strands.

(1) 将 [jiāng] prep.  
(used in the same way as 把)

(2) 扯 [chě] v.  
rip