

From Pinyin to Wade-Giles

General

Wade-Giles writes a hyphen between syllables within the same word.

Examples: nǐmen vs. ni³-men; Shànghǎi vs. Shang⁴-hai³.

Initials

1. The distinction between aspirated and non-aspirated initials is *not* marked with different symbols, but with an apostrophe after aspirated initials and no apostrophe after non-aspirated initials:

Pinyin		Wade-Giles	
b	p	p	p'
d	t	t	t'
g	k	k	k'
zh	ch	ch	ch'
z	c	ts	ts' (also: tz / tz'; see below)

2. No distinction is made between palatal and retroflex consonants:

Pinyin		Wade-Giles	
j	q	ch	ch'
zh	ch	ch	ch'

3. Pinyin x- is written hs-.

4. Pinyin r- is written j-.

Finals

1. Pinyin -er is written -erh.

2. Pinyin -e is written -eh after i, y, ü.

3. Pinyin -e is usually written -o after k-, k'-, h-.

4. Pinyin -uo is written -o except after k-, k'-, h- and sh-.

5. Pinyin -ong is written -ung.

6. Pinyin -an is written -en after y and i.

7. Pinyin -ui is written -uei after k- and k'-.

8. Pinyin you is written yu.

9. Pinyin u is always written ü when pronounced [y]. (E.g., pinyin ju, qu, xu, yu are written chü, ch'ü, hsü, yü)

10. Pinyin -i is written -ih after ch-, ch'-, sh-, j- (corresponding to pinyin zh-, ch-, sh-, r-).

11. Pinyin -i is written -u after ts-, ts'-, s-, and in addition the initial is spelled differently, so that zi, ci, si are written tzu, tz'u, szu (or ssu).

12. Pinyin yi is written i when it constitutes a whole syllable on its own.

Tones

Wade-Giles writes superscript numbers after the syllable instead of tone marks above the vowels: ¹, ², ³, ⁴.