

Chinese Romanization Table
2012 version

Earlier versions: [2011](#), [2000](#)

Chinese

RULES OF APPLICATION

Romanization

1. ALA-LC romanization of ideographic characters used for the Chinese language follows the principles of the Pinyin (“*spell sound*”) system. The Pinyin system was developed in the mid 20th century for creating Latin script readings for Chinese script ideographic characters. It replaces the Wade-Giles system of romanization specified in earlier editions of the *ALA-LC Romanization Tables*. The Pinyin system as outlined in *Han yu pin yin fang an* 汉语拼音方案 (1962) is followed closely for creating romanizations except that the ALA-LC guidelines do not include the indication of tone marks.
2. Standard Chinese national (PRC) pronunciation is used as the basis for creating the Latin script reading of a character. When it is necessary to make semantic distinctions between multiple readings of a single character, rely upon the usage of the most recent comprehensive edition of *Ci hai* 辞海 (published in China by Shanghai ci shu chu ban she). To determine contemporary pronunciation, or when there is a conflict in pronunciation between different sources, it is appropriate to follow the guidance of a more recent dictionary (such as *Xian dai Han yu ci dian* 现代汉语词典, *Zhonghua da zi dian* 中華大字典, *Han yu da ci dian* 漢語大詞典, and/or *Xin Hua zi dian* 新华字典). More specialized dictionaries (such as *Zhongguo li dai yi jia zhuan lu* 中國歷代醫家傳錄, published 1991) may be consulted if necessary. Judgment should be used in choosing between modern authoritative dictionaries and older standard dictionaries.
3. Romanize words of non-Chinese origin systematically in all cases, even though normalized non-systematic romanizations are known or the word comes from a Latin script language.

乌鲁木齐	Wulumuqi <i>not</i> Urumchi
哈尔滨市	Haerbin Shi <i>not</i> Harbin
芝加哥	Zhijiage <i>not</i> Chicago
東京	Dongjing <i>not</i> Tokyo

Separation of Syllables

Separate the romanization of each Chinese character with a space. This includes corporate names, terms of address and titles of royalty. Do not join syllables of general, non-specific geographic terms.

Chinese Romanization Table
2012 version

明清小说比较研究	Ming Qing xiao shuo bi jiao yan jiu
李白和他的诗歌	Li Bai he ta de shi ge
地震文化与社会发展	Di zhen wen hua yu she hui fa zhan
商務印書館	Shang wu yin shu guan
李登輝先生言論集	Li Denghui xian sheng yan lun ji
塔尔寺修缮工程报告	Ta er si xiu shan gong cheng bao gao
中国老年文物研究学会	Zhongguo lao nian wen wu yan jiu xue hui
西北国棉四厂	Xi bei guo mian si chang

1. Terms of address. A term of address may follow a surname, a courtesy name, or another appellation. Separate syllables in the term of address. If a term appearing as an integral part of a name is not a title or term of address, romanize the name in running form, as a forename (see below).

林老师	Lin lao shi
韋大夫	Wei dai fu
白沙先生	Baisha xian sheng
晦菴先生	Huian xian sheng
蔣經國先生	Jiang Jingguo xian sheng

2. Titles, and titles of royalty. Syllables in a title should be separated and written in lower-case. If a term appearing as an integral part of a name is not a title or term of address, romanize the name in running form, as a forename. An epithet is separated from the name of a person, using lower case letters and separated syllables.

董鄂妃	Dong e fei
慈禧皇后	Cixi huang hou
秦始皇帝	Qin shi huang di
楊太后	Yang tai hou

3. General, non-specific geographic terms. Some terms have both general and specific usage, depending upon context. For example, when the term 东北 refers to the direction northeast, or, in a general way, to the Northeast, separate syllables; when it is used to refer specifically to Manchuria, capitalize and join syllables.

华东	Hua dong
西北	xi bei
东北	dong bei
陕北	Shan bei

But:

Chinese Romanization Table
2012 version

东北林学院

Dongbei lin xue yuan

Connection of syllables

1. Join together (without spaces or hyphens) the syllables associated with multi-character surnames and given names. Also join together given names, Buddhist names, courtesy names, etc., in more than one syllable. For example:

孫中山	Sun Zhongshan
歐陽修	Ouyang Xiu
司馬相如	Sima Xiangru
尼克森	Nikesen
康有為	Kang Youwei

- 1A. Forenames, given names, courtesy names. A forename does not include a person's surname. Only capitalize the first letter of a forename. If a term appearing as an integral part of a name is not a title or term of address, romanize the name in running form.

無名氏	Wumingshi
梧崗主人	Wugangzhuren
雲谷老人	Yungulaoren
孔子	Kongzi
老子	Laozi
浩然	Haoran

- 1B. Married women. Separate and capitalize family names.

蔣宋美齡	Jiang Song Meiling
陳趙月英	Chen Zhao Yueying

- 1C. Fictional characters. The names of fictional characters are romanized in the same manner as those of real people.

駱駝祥子	Luotuo Xiangzi
秦可卿	Qin Keqing

- 1D. Names of persons of religious vocation. Separate a term of address from a family name or forename.

惠能	Huineng
釋吉藏	shi Jizang
智顛大師	Zhiyi da shi
沙門元賢	sha men Yuanxian

Chinese Romanization Table
2012 version

- 1E. Personal names appearing as part of the names of corporate bodies and meetings are romanized in the same manner as all other personal names. (See also Section 2J.)

中山大學	Zhongshan da xue
《刘少奇研究论文集》编辑组	“Liu Shaoqi yan jiu lun wen ji” bian ji zu
周恩来研究学术讨论会	Zhou Enlai yan jiu xue shu tao lun hui

2. Join together (without spaces or hyphens) the syllables associated with multi-character geographic names. Do not join the names of jurisdictions and topographical features to geographic names, but separate them from the proper name by a space.

中华人民共和国史稿	Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo shi gao
臺灣省立博物館	Taiwan Sheng li bo wu guan
西藏自治区文物管理委员会	Xizang Zizhiqu wen wu guan li wei yuan hui
东北林学院	Dongbei lin xue yuan
扬子江	Yangzi Jiang
广州市	Guangzhou Shi
安徽省	Anhui Sheng
商丘地区	Shangqiu Diqu
鹿港镇	Lugang Zhen
纽约市	Niuyue Shi
甘南藏族自治州	Gannan Zangzu Zizhizhou
翠亨村	Cuiheng Cun
浦棠乡	Putang Xiang
海南岛	Hainan Dao

- 2A. Names of countries. Connect syllables according to the practice followed by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

中华人民共和国	Zhonghua Renmin Gongheguo
朝鲜民主主义人民共和国	Chaoxian Minzhu Zhuyi Renmin Gongheguo
中華民國	Zhonghua Minguo
民国档案与民国史学术讨论会论文集	Minguo dang an yu Minguo shi xue shu tao lun hui lun wen ji
俄国戏剧史概要	Eguo xi ju shi gai yao

- 2B. Generic terms for geographical features are capitalized and separated from the names of the features. The syllables of the name of a jurisdiction or geographic feature that are included within another place name are connected together. These practices are also

Chinese Romanization Table
2012 version

followed when geographic names appear within corporate names. In case of doubt, separate.

海南岛	Hainan Dao
太平洋	Taiping Yang
长江	Chang Jiang
长江口	Changjiang Kou <i>not</i> Chang Jiang Kou
长江大饭店	Chang Jiang da fan dian <i>not</i> Changjiang da fan dian
珠江水产研究所	Zhu Jiang shui chan yan jiu suo
汾河	Fen He
汾河水庫	Fenhe Shuiku
梵净山	Fanjing Shan
梵净山自然保护区	Fanjingshan Ziran Baohuqu
黑龙江省	Heilongjiang Sheng
黄土高原	Huangtu Gaoyuan
印度半島	Yindu Bandao

2C. Two-syllable place names, in which the second syllable is a generic term. Separate and capitalize a generic term for the jurisdiction.

吳縣	Wu Xian
祁縣	Qi Xian

2D. Place names consisting of more than two syllables. Separate and capitalize a generic term for the jurisdiction.

安徽省	Anhui Sheng
广州市	Guangzhou Shi
高雄市	Gaoxiong Shi
宝山区	Baoshan Qu
鹿港镇	Lugang Zhen
翠亨村	Cuiheng Cun
商丘地区	Shangqiu Diqu
甘南藏族自治州	Gannan Zangzu Zizhizhou

2E. Obsolete terms for administrative units are romanized in the same manner as the names of contemporary places.

福寧州	Funing Zhou
昌平州	Changping Zhou

**Chinese Romanization Table
2012 version**

錦州府	Jinzhou Fu
安順府	Anshun Fu

- 2F. Names of non-Chinese jurisdictions are romanized in the same manner as the names of Chinese jurisdictions.

加州	Jia Zhou
紐約市	Niuyue Shi
亞洲	Ya Zhou
東南亞	Dong nan Ya

- 2G. Terms for archaeological sites, bridges, and other constructions of geographic extent are capitalized and separated from the names themselves. Individual syllables of multi-syllable generic terms are connected together. Individual syllables of multi-syllable generic terms are connected together, as are the syllables of the names of a jurisdiction or geographic feature that are included within the term.

泸州长江大桥	Luzhou Changjiang Daqiao <i>not</i> Luzhou Chang Jiang Daqiao
黃壁庄水库	Huangbizhuang Shuiku <i>not</i> Huangbi Zhuang Shuiku
京杭运河	Jing Hang Yunhe

- 2H. Names of buildings and other constructions of less than geographic extent. Syllables are separated and not capitalized, except for proper nouns.

黃鶴樓	Huang he lou
聖果寺	Sheng guo si

- 2I. Names of continents and regions. Generic terms are separated and capitalized in the names of continents and regions. Distinguish when a term refers to a region, and when it refers to direction or position.

亞洲	Ya Zhou
東南亞	Dong nan Ya
北美洲	Bei Mei Zhou
東北	dong bei (when referring to direction or position)

But:

東北	Dongbei (when referring to the particular area formerly known as Manchuria)
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Chinese Romanization Table
2012 version

- 2J. The syllables of personal names that appear within geographic names are connected together. The generic term for the jurisdiction or geographic feature is separated. This rule is an exception to Section 1E.

张自忠路	Zhangzizhong Lu
左权县	Zuoquan Xian
鲁迅公园	Luxun Gongyuan

3. Join together transliterations of two or more characters comprising the names of racial, linguistic, or tribal groupings of mankind. Join the term *zu* (for tribe or people) to a name only in proper names of places.

基督徒	Jidu tu
桐城派	Tongcheng pai
毛南族	Maonan zu
美国人	Meiguo ren
客家话	Kejia hua
苗族风情录	Miao zu feng qing lu

But:

德宏傣族景颇族自治州	Dehong Daizu Jingpozu Zizhizhou
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4. Add an apostrophe before joined syllables that begin with a vowel in cases of ambiguity. For example:

長安市	Chang'an Shi <i>to distinguish it from</i> Changan Shi
延安市	Yan'an Shi <i>to distinguish it from</i> Yanan Shi
张章昂	Zhang Zhang'ang <i>to distinguish it from</i>
张占钢	Zhang Zhangang
劉正安	Liu Zheng'an <i>to distinguish it from</i>
刘镇干	Liu Zhengan
王健安	Wang Jian'an <i>to distinguish it from</i>
王佳南	Wang Jianan

Capitalization

1. Capitalize the first word of a proper noun.
2. Capitalize the first word of a corporate name. Capitalize the first word of the name of a corporate subdivision appearing in conjunction with the name of the larger body only when the subdivision is used in headings.

Chinese Romanization Table
2012 version

3. Capitalize each separately written word of a geographical name. Capitalize the first word of the names of a dynasty.
4. Capitalize the first word of the title of a book, periodical, or series.

**Chinese Romanization Table
2012 version**

Punctuation

1. Transcribe a centered point (•) indicating coordinate words as a comma. Represent a centered point indicating a space by a space.

索尔 • 呗娄	Suoer Bailou
理查 • M • 尼克逊	Licha M Nikexun
理想 • 劳动 • 幸福	li xiang, lao dong, xing fu

2. Transcribe brackets (「 ... 」) or angle brackets (《 ... 》) used in the manner of quotation marks (“ ... ”) as quotation marks.

《淇县志》编纂委员会 “Qi Xian zhi” bian zuan wei yuan hui

Dates

1. Romanize non-numerical dates as separated syllables, except for reign periods that are also the names of emperors. For example:

光緒己丑 [1889]	Guangxu ji chou [1889]
清光緒 15 年 [1889]	Qing Guangxu 15 nian [1889]
嘉靖乙卯 [1555]	Jiajing yi mao [1555]
民國 79 [1990]	Minguo 79 [1990]
康德 3 [1936]	Kangde 3 [1936]
明治 1 [1868]	Mingzhi 1 [1868]
一九九八年 [1998]	yi jiu jiu ba nian [1998]
一九九零年 [1990]	yi jiu jiu ling nian [1990]

Correspondence of Wade-Giles to Pinyin

The table below presents Wade-Giles syllabic readings found in *Di ming Han zi yi yin biao* 地名漢字譯音表 (1971) and the *ALA-LC romanization tables* (1997), and Pinyin equivalents based on sounds and romanizations found in *Xian dai Han yu ci dian* 現代漢語詞典 (1983). This table is provided as a device to show the usual relationship between Wade-Giles and Pinyin romanizations. This list is not exhaustive but presents most of the Wade-Giles romanizations that are likely to be found in older cataloging records. Similarly, the syllables which are possible using the Pinyin system of romanization are not limited to those contained in this list.

<i>Wade-Giles</i>	<i>Pinyin</i>
a	a
ai	ai

Chinese Romanization Table
2012 version

<i>Wade-Giles</i>	<i>Pinyin</i>
an	an
ang	ang
ao	ao
cha	zha
ch'a	cha
chai	zhai
ch'ai	chai
chan	zhan
ch'an	chan
chang	zhang
ch'ang	chang
chao	zhao
ch'ao	chao
che	zhe
ch'e	che
chen	zhen
ch'en	chen
cheng	zheng
ch'eng	cheng
chi	ji
ch'i	qi
chia	jia
ch'ia	qia
chiang	jiang
ch'iang	qiang
chiao	jiao
ch'iao	qiao
chieh	jie
ch'ieh	qie
chien	jian
ch'ien	qian
chih	zhi
ch'ih	chi
chin	jin
ch'in	qin

**Chinese Romanization Table
2012 version**

<i>Wade-Giles</i>	<i>Pinyin</i>
ching	jing
ch'ing	qing
chiu	jiu
ch'iu	qiu
chiung	jiong
ch'iung	qiong
cho	zhuo
ch'o	chuo
chou	zhou
ch'ou	chou
chu	zhu
ch'u	chu
chua	zhua
chuai	zhuai
ch'uai	chuai
chuan	zhuan
ch'uan	chuan
chuang	zhuang
ch'uang	chuang
chui	zhui
ch'ui	chui
chun	zhun
ch'un	chun
chung	zhong
ch'ung	chong
chü	ju
ch'ü	qu
chüan	juan
ch'üan	quan
chüeh	jue
ch'üeh	que
chün	jun
ch'ün	qun
en	en
erh	er

Chinese Romanization Table
2012 version

<i>Wade-Giles</i>	<i>Pinyin</i>
fa	fa
fan	fan
fang	fang
fei	fei
fen	fen
feng	feng
fo	fo
fou	fou
fu	fu
ha	ha
hai	hai
han	han
hang	hang
hao	hao
hei	hei
hen	hen
heng	heng
ho	he
hou	hou
hsi	xi
hsia	xia
hsiang	xiang
hsiao	xiao
hsieh	xie
hsien	xian
hsin	xin
hsing	xing
hsiu	xiu
hsiung	xiong
hsü	xu
hsüan	xuan
hsüeh	xue
hsün	xun
hu	hu
hua	hua

Chinese Romanization Table
2012 version

<i>Wade-Giles</i>	<i>Pinyin</i>
huai	huai
huan	huan
huang	huang
hui	hui
hun	hun
hung	hong
huo	huo
i	yi
jan	ran
jang	rang
jao	rao
je	re
jen	ren
jeng	reng
jih	ri
jo	ruo
jou	rou
ju	ru
juan	ruan
jui	rui
jun	run
jung	rong
ka	ga
k'a	ka
kai	gai
k'ai	kai
kan	gan
k'an	kan
kang	gang
k'ang	kang
kao	gao
k'ao	kao
kei	gei
ken	gen
k'en	ken

Chinese Romanization Table
2012 version

<i>Wade-Giles</i>	<i>Pinyin</i>
keng	geng
k'eng	keng
ko	ge
k'o	ke
kou	gou
k'ou	kou
ku	gu
k'u	ku
kua	gua
k'ua	kua
kuai	guai
k'uai	kuai
kuan	guan
k'uan	kuan
kuang	guang
k'uang	kuang
kuei	gui
k'uei	kui
kun	gun
k'un	kun
kung	gong
k'ung	kong
kuo	guo
k'uo	kuo
la	la
lai	lai
lan	lan
lang	lang
lao	lao
le	le
lei	lei
leng	leng
li	li
liang	liang
liao	liao

Chinese Romanization Table
2012 version

<i>Wade-Giles</i>	<i>Pinyin</i>
lieh	lie
lien	lian
lin	lin
ling	ling
liu	liu
lo	luo
lou	lou
lu	lu
luan	luan
lun	lun
lung	long
lŭ	lǔ
lŭan	luan
lŭeh	lǜe
ma	ma
mai	mai
man	man
mang	mang
mao	mao
mei	mei
men	men
meng	meng
mi	mi
miao	miao
mieh	mie
mien	mian
min	min
ming	ming
miu	miu
mo	mo
mou	mou
mu	mu
na	na
nai	nai
nan	nan

Chinese Romanization Table
2012 version

<i>Wade-Giles</i>	<i>Pinyin</i>
nang	nang
nao	nao
nei	nei
nen	nen
neng	neng
ni	ni
niang	niang
niao	niao
nieh	nie
nien	nian
nin	nin
ning	ning
niu	niu
no	nuo
nu	nu
nuan	nuan
nung	nong
nü	nü
nüeh	nüe
o	e
ou	ou
pa	ba
p'a	pa
pai	bai
p'ai	pai
pan	ban
p'an	pan
pang	bang
p'ang	pang
pao	bao
p'ao	pao
pei	bei
p'ei	pei
pen	ben
p'en	pen

Chinese Romanization Table
2012 version

Wade-Giles

Pinyin

peng	beng
p'eng	peng
pi	bi
p'i	pi
piao	biao
p'iao	piao
pieh	bie
p'ieh	pie
pien	bian
p'ien	pian
pin	bin
p'in	pin
ping	bing
p'ing	ping
po	bo
p'o	po
pou	bou
pu	bu
p'u	pu
sa	sa
sai	sai
san	san
sang	sang
sao	sao
se	se
sen	sen
seng	seng
sha	sha
shai	shai
shan	shan
shang	shang
shao	shao
she	she
shen	shen
sheng	sheng

Chinese Romanization Table
2012 version

Wade-Giles

Pinyin

shih	shi
shou	shou
shu	shu
shua	shua
shuai	shuai
shuan	shuan
shuang	shuang
shui	shui
shun	shun
shuo	shuo
so	suo
sou	sou
ssu	si
su	su
suan	suan
sui	sui
sun	sun
sung	song
szu	si
ta	da
t'a	ta
tai	dai
t'ai	tai
tan	dan
t'an	tan
tang	dang
t'ang	tang
tao	dao
t'ao	tao
te	de
t'e	te
teng	deng
t'eng	teng
ti	di
t'i	ti

Chinese Romanization Table
2012 version

<i>Wade-Giles</i>	<i>Pinyin</i>
tiao	diao
t'iao	tiao
tieh	die
t'ieh	tie
tien	dian
t'ien	tian
ting	ding
t'ing	ting
tiu	diu
to	duo
t'o	tuo
tou	dou
t'ou	tou
tu	du
t'u	tu
tuan	duan
t'uan	tuan
tui	dui
t'ui	tui
tun	dun
t'un	tun
tung	dong
t'ung	tong
tzu	zi
tz'u	ci
tsa	za
ts'a	ca
tsai	zai
ts'ai	cai
tsan	zan
ts'an	can
tsang	zang
ts'ang	cang
tsao	zao
ts'ao	cao

Chinese Romanization Table
2012 version

<i>Wade-Giles</i>	<i>Pinyin</i>
tse	ze
ts'e	ce
tsei	zei
tsen	zen
ts'en	cen
tseng	zeng
ts'eng	ceng
tso	zuo
ts'o	cuo
tsou	zou
ts'ou	cou
tsu	zu
ts'u	cu
tsuan	zuan
ts'uan	cuan
tsui	zui
ts'ui	cui
tsun	zun
ts'un	cun
tsung	zong
ts'ung	cong
wa	wa
wai	wai
wan	wan
wang	wang
wei	wei
wen	wen
weng	weng
wo	wo
wu	wu
ya	ya
yai	yai
yang	yang
yao	yao
yeh	ye

Chinese Romanization Table
2012 version

Wade-Giles

Pinyin

yen

yan

yin

yin

ying

ying

yo

yo

yu

you

yung

yong

yü

yu

yüan

yuan

yüeh

yue

yün

yun