

了。(Don't worry about me.);

Jiějie ài dǎ páiqiú, mèimei ne, ài kàn liánhuánhuà, wǒ ne, shénme àihào yě méiyǒu. 姐姐爱打排球，妹妹呢，爱看连环画，我呢，什么爱好也没有。(My older sister likes to play volleyball and my younger sister likes to read comic books, but I don't have any hobbies.)

13) wa 哇

wa 哇 is a variant form of a 啊 (1) above) used when this particle follows a syllable ending in -u (this includes syllables ending in -ao, which, as was noted in Part I of this work, is actually pronounced -au). (See (1) above.)

14) ya 呀

ya 呀 is a variant form of a 啊 (1) above) used when this particle follows a syllable ending in -a, -e, -i, -o, or -ü. (See 1) above.)

## 9.4 Interjections

Interjections, sometimes also called exclamations, are a type of function word used in calling out, to express strong emotions, or to indicate agreement. Interjections may form complete utterances on their own, or function as part of a larger utterance. When they form a part of a larger sentence, they most usually appear at the beginning. They are separated from the rest of the sentence by a comma or exclamation point in writing.

Interjections can tolerate a wide degree of variation in tone and intonation in order to better express the emotions they indicate. This makes it difficult to set a fixed Chinese-character form for each different interjection. To better suit this variability, inter-

jections are permitted to go without tone markers in HP.

Interjections, as function words, are written separately from the words around them. Most interjections are monosyllabic, though there are a number of polysyllabic ones, like haiyo 嗨哟, heihei 嘿嘿, aiya 哎呀, and aiyaya 哎呀呀。Some interjections are composed wholly of consonants: ng 嗯, hm 喏, hng 哼。These too are treated as ordinary syllables.

Usage and written form of the more common interjections of Putonghua are introduced in the following section. (To better approximate emotional quality, tones are marked on the interjections in the examples below; this is unnecessary in ordinary HP writing.)

1) a 啊

A? Nǐ shuō shénme? 啊，你说什么？ (Eh? What did you say?)  
—inquiry;

A? Yǒu zhèyàng de shì? 啊，有这样的事？ (What? Is such a thing possible?) — surprise;

A, wǒ míngbái le. 啊，我明白了。 (Oh, I get it.) — agreement, comprehension.

2) ai 唉， 暖

Ai, wǒ lái le. 唉，我来了。 (Here I am.) — response;

Ai, bù shì nàme huí shì. 暖，不是那么回事儿。 (No, it's not like that at all.) — disagreement;

Ai, yīqiè dōu wán le. 唉，一切都完了。 (Oh dear, it's all over.)  
— sadness.

3) aiya 哎呀

Aiya, zhè nánguā zhēn dà! 哎呀，这南瓜真大。 (My, what a big pumpkin!) — surprise.

4) **aiyo** 哎; also **aiyao** 哎哟, **aiyou** 哎唷

**Aiyo, wǒ dùzi hǎo téng!** 哎哟, 我肚子好疼! (Oh, how my stomach aches!) — pain;

**aiyo** 哎哟 may also be used to express alarm or pleased surprise.

5) **e, ei** 欸

**Ei, nǐ kuài lái!** 欸, 你快来! (Hey, come quick.) — used in calling someone;

**Ei, tā zěnmē pǎo le?** 欸, 他怎么跑了? (Hey, where did he run off to?) — surprise;

**Ei, bù shì zhèyàng ba.** 欸, 不是这样吧。 (That can't be right.) — disagreement, disapproval;

**Ei, wǒ jiù lái le.** 欸, 我就来了。 (I'm coming.) — used in replying to a call or summons.

6) **haha** 哈哈

**Hāhā, wǒ cāidui le.** 哈哈, 我猜对了。 (Ha, I guessed right.) — happiness or smugness;

7) **hai** 咳

**Hāi, wǒ zhēn gāi sǐ!** 咳, 我真该死! (I'm such a fool!) — regret;

**Hāi, zhēn zāogāo!** 咳, 真糟糕! (Oh no, what a mess!) — worry, despair;

**Hāi, yǒu zhè zhǒng guàishì!** 咳, 有这种怪事! (That's really strange!) — surprise.

8) **haiyo** 嗨哟

**Jiāyóu gàn a, hāiyō!** 加油干哪, 嗨哟 (Keep it up!) — encouragement.

9) **he** 喏

Hē, zhēn liǎobuqǐ. 嗨，真了不起。(That's terrific) — surprise, admiration.

10) **hei** 嘿

Hēi, wū li yǒu rén ma? 嘿，屋里有人吗？(Is there anybody in here?) — used in calling to someone;

Hēi, hái shì wǒ yǒu bàn fǎ. 嘿，还是我有办法。(Well, looks like I'm the clever one.) — happiness, smugness;

Hēi, chū hóng le. 嘿，出虹了。(Why, there's a rainbow.) — surprise.

11) **hm** 噉

Hm, nǐ hái piàn wǒ! 噉，你还骗我！(So, you were fooling me.) — resentment;

Hm, bié húnào! 噉，别胡闹！(Stop making trouble!) — reprimand.

12) **hng** 哼

Hng, nǐ yǒu shénme liǎobuqǐ. 哼，你有什么了不起。(What's so great about you?) — displeasure, scorn;

Hng, bié lǐ tā. 哼，别理他！(Ah, don't pay any attention to him!) — disbelief.

13) **huo** 噉

Huo, hǎo dà de yú. 噉，好大的鱼！(What a big fish!) — surprise.

14) **m** 噉

M, shuō shénme? 噉，说什么？(Huh? What did you say?) — inquiry;

M, wǒ míngbái le. 噉，我明白了。(Oh, I get it.) — comprehension.

15) **ng** 噉

Ng, shuí yào lái? 嗯，谁要来? (Well, who's coming?) — inquiry;

Ng, diànhuà yòu huài le? 嗯，电话又坏了? (What, the phone's not working again?) — surprise;

Ng, nǐ zěnmē hái méi qù? 嗯，你怎么还没去? (Why haven't you left yet?) — displeasure;

Ng, xíng, xíng. 嗯，行，行。(All right.) — agreement.

16) o 喔，噢，哦，噢

O, yuánlái shì tā! 喔，原来是她! (Oh, so it's her!) — realization;

O, tā huì Déyǔ? 哦，他会德语? (Oh, he speaks German?) — surprise, doubt;

O, yào sānqiān yuán? 噢，要三千元? (What? It costs three thousand  *yuan*?) — astonishment;

O, wǒ wánquán míngbai le. 哦，我完全明白了。(Oh, now I really get it.) — comprehension.

17) pei 呸

Pēi, yī gè xiǎotōu! 呸，一个小偷! (A thief!) — scorn, disdain;

Pēi, wánquán shì húshuō! 呸，完全是胡说! (That's sheer nonsense!) — disagreement, reprimand.

18) wei 喂

Wèi, nǐ dào nǎr qù? 喂，你到哪儿去? (Hey, where are you going?) — used in calling to someone;

Wèi, wèi, fúwùtái. 喂，喂，服务台! (Hello, is this the service desk?) — used in making or answering a telephone call.

19) ya 呀

Yā, xià xuě le. 呀，下雪了! (Why, it's snowing!) — surprise.

20) yi 咦

Yí, nǐ shénme shíhòu lái de? 咦，你什么时候来的？(Why, when did you get here?) — surprise.

21) yo 哟

Yō, nǐ wàng le? 哟，你忘了？(Did you forget?) — mild surprise;

Yō, nǐ cǎi wǒ de jiǎo le. 哟，你踩我的脚了。(Ow! You stepped on my foot!) — pain, displeasure.

22) you 呦

Yōu, huār zěnmē sǐ le. 呦，花儿怎么死了。(How come the flower's died?) — surprise.

## 9.5 Onomatopoeic Words

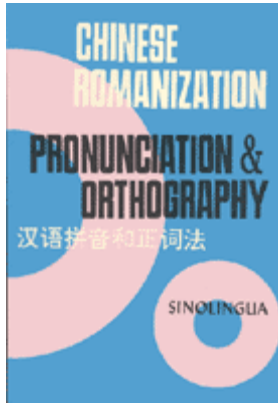
Onomatopoeic words imitate the sounds of the natural world, or use meaningless syllables to evoke a certain spirit or mood. They most often function as adverbial phrases, modifying verbs or adjectives, but they can also fulfill other functions within the sentence. A few examples of usage follow. (The quotation marks enclosing the onomatopoeic element are optional, being used purely for visual effect.)

Yǔ huǒhuà de xià. 雨哗哗地下。(The rain pattered down.) — adverbial;

Tā de liǎn “shuā” de hóng le. 她的脸“唰”地红了。(Her face went red in an instant.) — adverbial;

Shān shàng chuán lái “pēngpēng” de qiāngshēng. 山上传来“砰砰”的枪声。(The “ping” of gunfire floated down from the hilltop.) — attributive;

Xiǎo Wáng hūlūle liǎng shēng, yòu hūnmí guòqu le. 小王“呼



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