

Xiàtiān lái le. 夏天来了。(Summer is here.);

Wǒmen fàng le jià le. 我们放了假了。(Our vacation has begun.);

Kělián de xiǎoyáng, bèi láng gěi chīdiào le. 可怜的小羊, 被狼给吃掉了。(The poor little lamb was eaten up by the wolf.);

Tiān kuài liàng le, wǒmen gāi dòngshēn le. 天快亮了, 我们该动身了。(It's almost dawn; we should get moving.);

Hǎo le, hǎo le, nimen zài bù yào zhēnglùn le. 好了, 好了, 你们再不要争论了。(All right, stop arguing, all of you.);

Nǐ bù shì chīguo fàn le ma? 你不是吃过饭了吗? (Haven't you eaten already?) Note that le 了 is here treated as if it occupied the sentence-final position, despite the presence of another particle (ma 吗) following it.

9.3 Mood Particles

Mood-indicating particles are used to add various moods, spirits and tones to an utterance. "Mood" includes such diverse qualities as interrogation, request, command, emphasis, and exclamation. Some Chinese grammatologists classify mood particles as an independent part of speech, calling them "mood words." Two distinctive features of mood particles are their position, typically at the end of a sentence or phrase, and their tone—they are usually read in the neutral tone. (In HP, consequently, they are never marked with tones.) The intonation of a sentence, which in Putonghua usually rests largely on the final syllable of an utterance, is in the case of a particle-final sentence transferred to the penultimate syllable.

Mood particles are always written separately from other

components of a sentence. In the following paragraphs, we will look at the usage and written forms of some of the more common mood particles of Putonghua.

1) a 啊

This very common mood particle is used to express emotion, affirmation, interrogation, and other moods. In speech, its pronunciation is partially determined by the final of the syllable preceding it. After -a, -e, -i, -o, or -u, a 啊 is pronounced “ya” 呀; after -u, “wa” 哇; and after -n, “na” 哪. These different pronunciations are conventionally represented by the different characters seen here; in HP, however, a single “a” is used to represent them all.

a 啊 may be used to express admiration:

Duōme měi de Xī Hú a! 多么美的西湖啊! (How lovely West Lake is!).

a 啊 may also be used to express affirmation, explanation, or to call someone's attention to something:

Nǐ shuō de zhēn bùcuò a! 你说得真不错啊! (You said it!);

Wǒ bù shì bù guǎn, méi hǎo bànfǎ a! 我不是不管，没好办法呀! (It's not that I don't care, but there's nothing I can do about it!);

Xiǎo Wáng, nǐ kě yào dāngxīn a! 小王，你可要当心哪! (Be careful, Xiao Wang!).

a 啊 may also be used interrogatively:

Shuí a? Nǐ zěnmé bù jìnlái a? 谁呀? 你怎么不进来呀? (Who is it? Why don't you come on inside?).

a 啊 may also be used to indicate a pause, or to separate items in a list:

Tā a, zhēn bù jiǎndān! 他呀，真不简单! (That guy, he's no fool!); Hǎo a, nǐ děngzhe qiáo!

好哇，你等着瞧! (All right, you just wait and see!);

Yú a, ròu a, jī a, bǎimǎnle yī dà zhuō. 鱼啊，肉啊，鸡啊，摆满了一大桌。(The whole table is covered with fish, pork, and chicken dishes.).

2) ba 吧

ba 吧 is used to make suggestions, requests, or polite commands:

Zánmen zǒu ba! 咱们走吧。(Let's go!);

Nín jiù dāying wǒ ba. 您就答应我吧。 Promise me, won't you?);

Bǎ nǐ de lùnwén gěi dàjiā kànkan ba! 把你的论文给大家看看吧。(Let everyone take a look at your dissertation!).

ba 吧 is also used to express agreement or approval:

Hǎo ba, wǒ jiù qù. 好吧，我就去。(All right, I'll go.);

Xíng, jiù zhèyàng bàn ba. 行，就这样办吧。(OK, let's do it that way.).

ba 吧 may also be used to express conjecture or surmise:

Lǎo Lǐ dàgài bù lái le ba? 老李大概不来了吧? (I guess Lao Li's not coming.);

Dàgài shì qiántiān ba, tā gàosùguo wǒ. 大概是前天吧，他告诉过我。(He told me; the day before yesterday, it must have been.).

ba 吧 may also be used in citing examples, or stating options:

Bǐrú shūfǎ ba, jiù shì yī mén dà xuéwen. 比如书法吧，就是一门大学问。(Calligraphy, for example, is a great field of scholarly endeavor.);

Qù ba, lù tài yuǎn; bù qù ba, yòu shīdiào le yī cì hǎo jīhuì. 去吧，路太远；不去吧，又失掉了一次好机会。(It's really too far to go, but if you don't go you'll miss a good opportunity.).

3) **bàle** 罢了

bàle 罢了 expresses the meaning “only, merely”:

Zhè hái zǐ méi shénme dà bìng, bùguò zháo diǎnr liáng bàle. 这孩子没什么大病，不过着点凉罢了。(This child isn't seriously ill; he's just got a slight cold.);

Shuōshuō bàle, nǐ hái dāngzhēn? 说说罢了，你还当真？(I was just saying that; you didn't take me seriously, did you?).

4) **bei** 呗

bei 呗 expresses the meaning “it's obvious; need one say more?” It may also be used to indicate reluctance, as in the second example below:

Bù dǒng jiù hǎohǎo xué bei. 不懂就好好学呗。(If you don't understand it, then study!);

Yào qù jiù qù bei, méi duō dà xīwàng. 要去就去呗，没多大希望。(Go if you want, but there's not much point in it.).

5) **de** 的

de 的 is used in collocation with **shì** 是 in the construction **shì... de** (是.....的) to express affirmation, explanation, or emphasis:

Wǒ shì 1980 nián dàxué bìyè de. 我是1980年大学毕业的。(I graduated from college in 1980.);

Wǒmen shì cóng New York zuò fēijī gǎnlái de. 我们是从纽约坐飞机赶来的。(We came from New York by plane.);

Zhè jiàn shì Wáng lǎoshī shì juéduì bù huì tóngyì de. 这件事王老师是绝对不会同意的。(There's no way Professor Wang will

agree to this.);

Tā de zìxíngchē shì zěnmē gǎohuài de? 他的自行车是怎么搞坏的? (How did his bicycle get broken?).

6) la 啦

la 啦 is the syllable formed by the melding together of the two particles le 了 and a 啊, thus: Tā lái le a 他来了啊 —— Tā lái la 他来啦 (He's arrived!).

7) le 了

le 了 is used to indicate that a situation has changed, or that a new state of affairs has come into being:

Chūntiān le, táohuār, lihuār dōu kāi le. 春天了, 桃花、李花都开了。 (Spring has come, and the peach and plum trees have all blossomed.);

Xīnnián kuài dào le, xiǎoháirmen yòu gāi wánr biānpào le. 新年快到了, 小孩们又该玩儿鞭炮了。 (It's almost New Year's again, time for the kids to play with firecrackers.);

Wǒ zhè cái míngbai guòlai le. 我这才明白过来了。 (Only then did I finally understand.);

Chángjiāng Dàqiáo zhōngyú jiànchéng tōngchē le. 长江大桥终于建成通车了。 (The Yangtse River Bridge is finally completed and open to traffic.).

le 了 may be used to express urging or dissuasion:

Zǒu le, zǒu le, bù néng zài děng le. 走了, 走了, 不能再等了。 (Let's go, let's go; we can't wait all day!);

Gòu le, bù yào zài luōsuo le! 够了, 不要再罗嗦了。 (That's enough; stop rambling on!).

8) ma 吗

ma 吗 expresses interrogation. It is used to form questions

requiring a yes-or-no answer, as well as rhetorical questions (which require no answer):

Qǐngwèn, nín shì Wáng xiǎojiě ma? 请问，您是王小姐吗？
(Excuse me, are you Miss Wang?);

Duìbuqǐ, zhè shì nín de xiāngzi ma? 对不起，这是您的箱子吗？
(Excuse me, but is this your suitcase?);

Míngtiān nǐmen dǎsuàn qù Yǐhéyuán ma? 明天你们打算去颐和园吗？
(Are you all planning to go to the Summer Palace tomorrow?);

Nǐ zhè bù shì qīwǔ rén ma? 你这不是欺侮人吗？
(Aren't you just pushing people around?);

Wǒ bù shì yǐjīng gào sù guo nǐ le ma? 我不是已经告诉过你了吗？
(Didn't I tell you already?).

9) **ma** 嘛

ma 嘛 (sometimes written 吗、么) is used to indicate, tactfully, the meaning “obviously, of course”:

Yǒu huà jiù shuō ma, bùbì kèqì. 有话就说嘛，不必客气。
(If you've got something to say, say it; don't stand on ceremony.);

Bànshì, zǒngshì huì pèngdào kùnnán ma. 办事，总是会碰到困难嘛。
(One's bound to run into problems trying to get things done.).

10) **me** 么

me 么 is a variant form of ma which is sometimes used for ma 吗 and ma 嘛 (8) and 9) above).

11) **na** 哪

na 哪 is a variant form of a 啊 (1) above) used when this particle follows a syllable ending in “n”. (See 1) above.)

12) **ne** 呢

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ne 呢 is used in forming questions of other types than that requiring a “yes-or-no” answer:

Nǐ dǎsuàn sòng shénme gěi wǒ ne? 你打算送什么给我呢?
(What are you planning on giving me?);

Nǐ xiǎng xué tíqín ne, hái shì xué jítā ne? 你想学提琴呢。还是学吉他呢?
(Do you want to study violin, or guitar?);

Tā jīntiān dàodǐ lái bù lái ne? 他今天到底来不来呢?
(Is he coming today, or not?).

ne 呢 may also be used for purposes of emphasis, hyperbole, or persuasion:

Běihǎi Gōngyuán de júhuā zhǎnlǎn kě rènnào ne! 北海公园的菊花展览可热闹呢!
(The chrysanthemum show at Beihai Park was really bustling with visitors!);

Yuǎn de hěn, yǒu hǎo jǐ qiān lǐ ne! 远得很，有好几千里呢!
(It's a long way away; it must be thousands of miles.);

Zhème piàoliang de qúnzi, wǒ hái cónglái méi jiànguò ne. 这么漂亮的裙子，我还从来没见过呢!
(I've never seen such a pretty skirt.).

ne 呢 may also be used to indicate that an action is underway, or a state of affairs extant:

Zhāng xiānsheng, wàimiàn yǒu rén zhǎo nǐ ne. 张先生，外面有人找你呢!
(Mr. Zhang, there's somebody outside looking for you.);

Bié zǒu le, yǔ hái méiyǒu tíng ne. 别走了，雨还没有停呢!
(Don't go; it hasn't stopped raining yet.).

ne 呢 may also be used to mark a pause in an utterance, especially a pause between items in opposition:

Zhìyú wǒ ne, nǐ jiù bù yòng guǎn le. 至于我呢，你就不用管

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.)

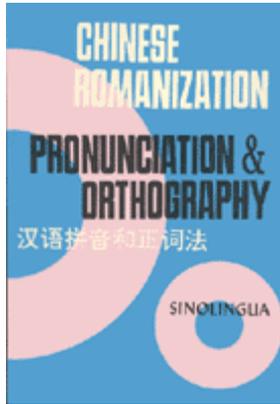
14) ya 呀

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-



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