



Ottawa Mandarin School

Adult Class 2013-14

Course material: <http://maltzchineseclub.blogspot.ca>

Week 01: September 14, 2013

1. Introduction
2. Basic Questions
3. Tones
4. Pronunciations



Introduction

介 紹
jiè shào

Instructors

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- Day-1 Survey, by the end of class
- Course material for download: <http://maltzchineseclub.blogspot.ca>
- Course content
 - Basics (tones, pronunciation, grammar)
 - Lives and culture (food, clothing, housing, transportation, education, entertainment)
 - Festivals
- Group exercises, video clips, songs
- Chinese New Year Performance (Jan-Feb 2014)
- Textbook: TBA (will be new!)

Basic Questions

and ice breakers

- What 什 麼
shén me
- Who 誰
shéi
- When 什 麼 時 候
shén me shí hòu
- Where 什 麼 地 方
shén me dì fāng
- Why 為 什 麼
wéi shén me
- How 怎 麼
zěn me

WHAT 什 麼

shēn me

What is your name? My name is Daniel.

Q1: 你 的 名 字 是 什 麼 ? (Your name is what?)
nǐ de míng zì shì shēn me

A1: 我 的 名 字 是 Daniel 。
wǒ de míng zì shì

Everybody: 你 好 , Daniel 。
nǐ hǎo

Note: 你 是 誰 ? (who are you) – less polite
nǐ shì shéi

WHAT 什 麼

shén me

What is your favourite Chinese dish?

Q2: 你 最 喜 歡 吃 什 麼 中 國 菜 ？
nǐ zuì xǐ huān chī shén me zhōng guó cài
(You favorite eat what Chinese dish?)

A2: 我 最 喜 歡 吃 ... 〇
wǒ zuì xǐ huān chī ... ○

Everybody: ... 真 好 吃 〇
zhēn hǎo chī ○

Student: 老師，我有一個問題。
lǎo shī , wǒ yǒu yí ge wèn tí 。

(Teacher, I have a question.)

Teacher: 什麼問題？
shén me wèn tí ?



(What is the question?)

WHERE

什麼地方 (what place)
shén me dì fāng

Q3: 你生在什麼地方? (You born at what place?)
nǐ shēng zài shén me dì fāng

or 你生在哪裡? (You are living at where?)
nǐ shēng zài nǎ lǐ

A3: 我生在... (e.g. 加拿大 Canada)
wǒ shēng zài jiā nā dà

Everybody: ... 是個好地方。
shì ge hǎo dì fāng

Student: 請 問 我 們 在 什 麼 地 方 ？ 。

qǐng wèn wǒ mén zài shén me dì fāng ? 。

(May I ask where we are?)

Teacher: 第 八 頁 。

dì bā yè 。



(Page 8.)

WHEN 什 麼 時 候 (what time)

shēn me shí hòu

Q4: 你 什 麼 時 候 開 始 學 中 文 ?
nǐ shēn me shí hòu kāi shǐ xué zhōng wén

(You what time start learning Chinese?)

A4: 我 … 開 始 學 中 文 。
wǒ … kāi shǐ xué zhōng wén

e.g. 一 年 以 前 one year ago 2010 年
yī nián yǐ qián 2010 nián

一	二	(兩)	三	四	五	六	七	八	九	十
yī	èr	liǎng	sān	sì	wǔ	liù	qī	bā	jiǔ	shí
1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Everybody: … 的 中 文 說 得 真 好 。
de zhōng wén shuō dé zhēn hǎo

Student: 請 問 什 麼 時 候 下 課 ？
qǐng wèn shén me shí hòu xià kè ?

(May I ask when is the class over?)

Teacher: 十 二 點 。shí èr diǎn 。



(Twelve o'clock.)

WHY 為 什 麼 (for what)
wèi shén me

Q5: 你 為 什 麼 想 學 中 文 ?
nǐ wéi shén me xiǎng xué zhōng wén
(You why want to learn Chinese?)

A5: 我 想 學 中 文 , 因 為 ...
wǒ xiǎng xué zhōng wén , yīn wéi ...

Everybody: 有 道 理 。 (makes sense)
yǒu dào lǐ

HOW

怎 麼
zěn me

Q6: 你 怎 麼 練 習 中 文 ?
nǐ zěn me liàn xí zhōng wén
(You how practice Chinese?)

A6: 我 ...
wǒ

Everybody: ... 很 努 力 呀 。 (works very hard!)
hěn nǔ lì ya

Tones

尸ㄥ
聲

shēng

ㄉㄠˋ
調

diào



Tones

聲 調
shēng diào

- The greatest obstacle in learning Chinese for adult student is to **master tones**.
- Each Chinese word has a **pronunciation** and a **tone**.
 - Pronunciation can be a little off but people still understand.
 - Tone has **limited** degree of freedom. Chinese do not vary tones as English speakers do (hence the famous *Chinglish* accent.)
- There are **only 4 tones** in Mandarin
 - plus a light tone that usually carries insignificant meaning

Four Tones

四 聲
sì shēng

- (-) #1: high pitch and flat
- (´) #2: starts middle, going up
- (ˋ) #3: low, goes down then up
- (ˊ) #4: starts middle, going down
- () • **Light tone**: starts middle, slightly going down

Tone #1

pitch



Mandarin



If emphasized



Cantonese



Tone #1



Tone #3



Tone #6

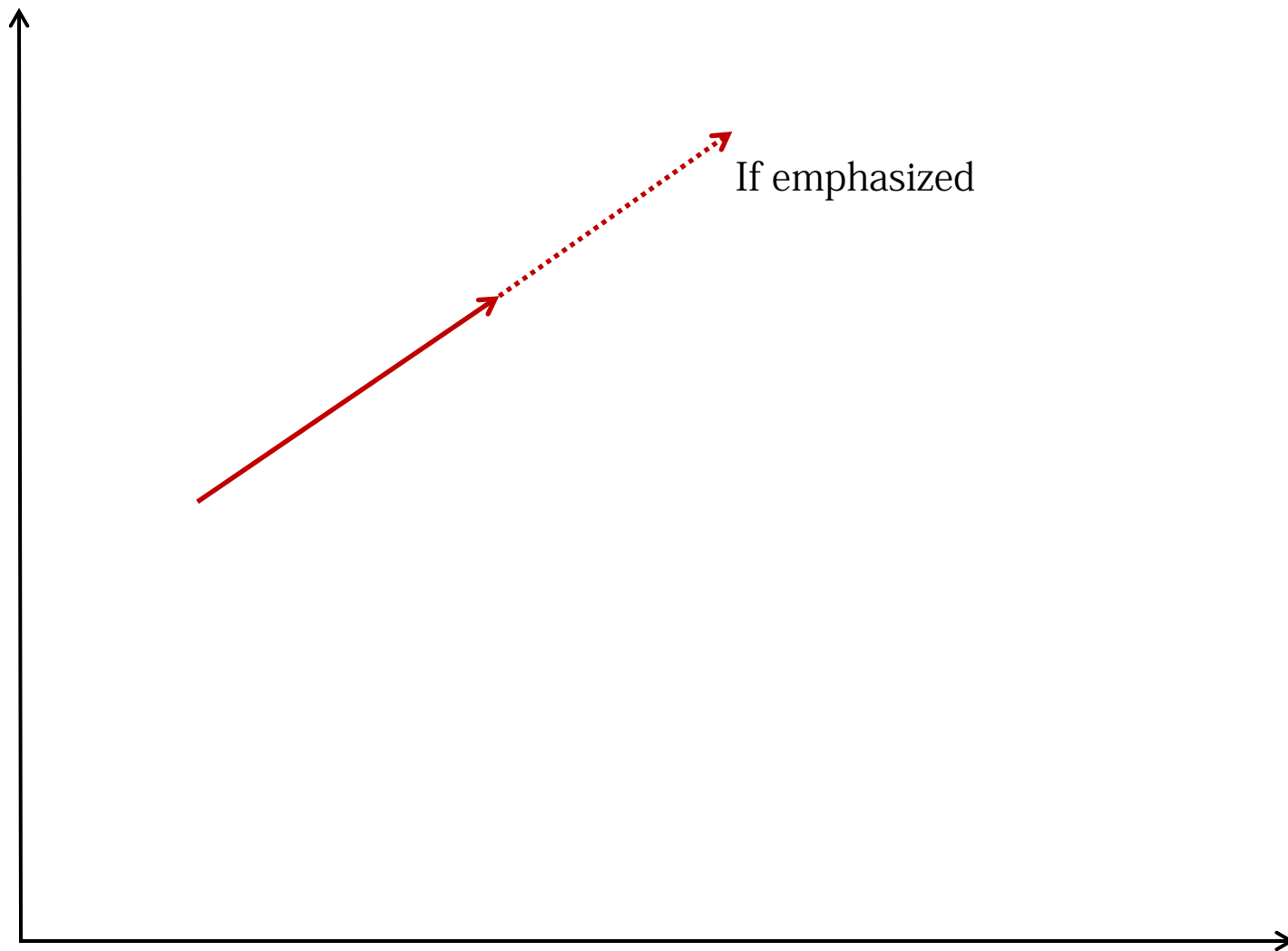


Tone #4

time

Tone #2

pitch

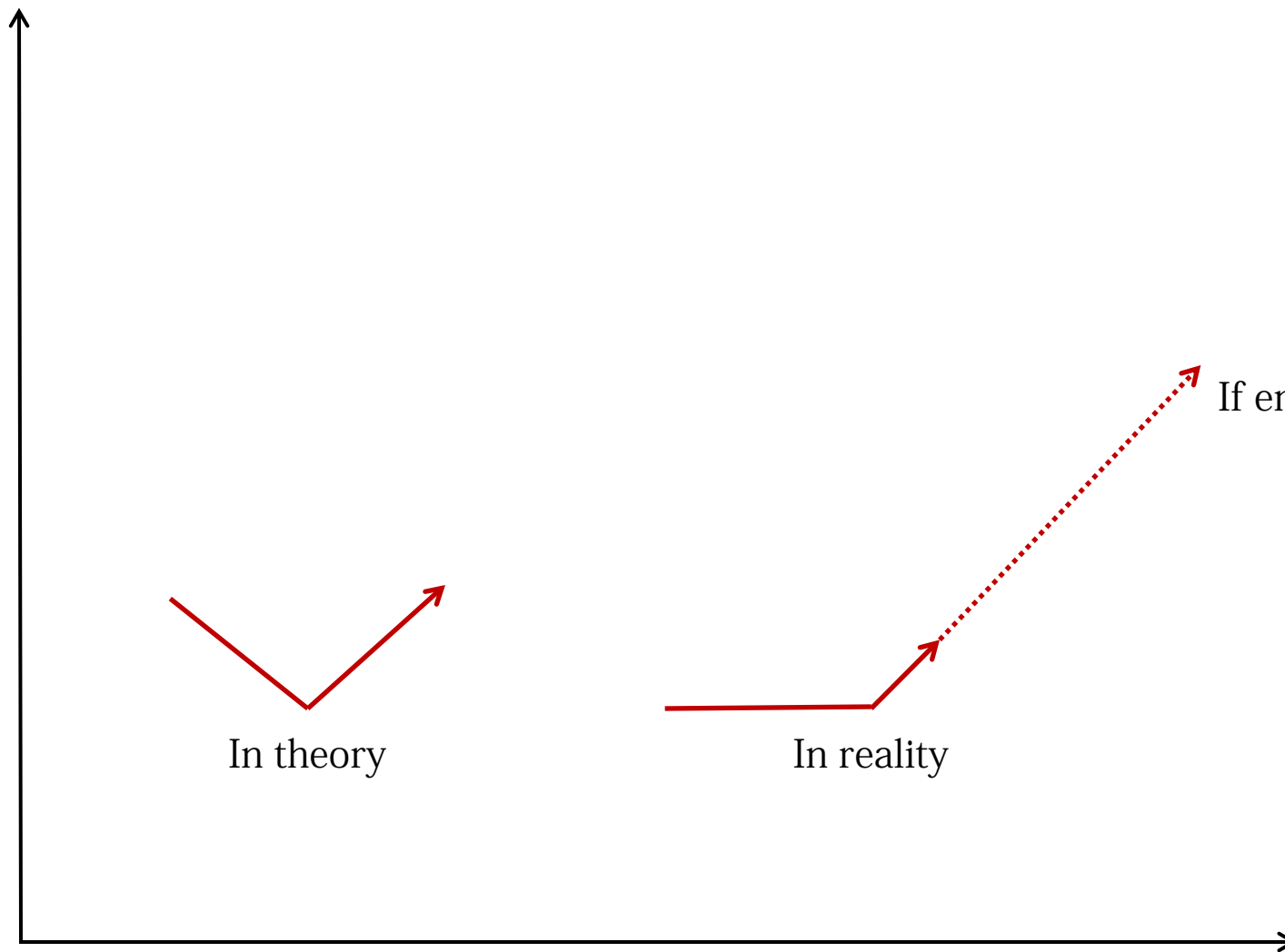


If emphasized

time

Tone #3

pitch



In theory

In reality

If emphasized

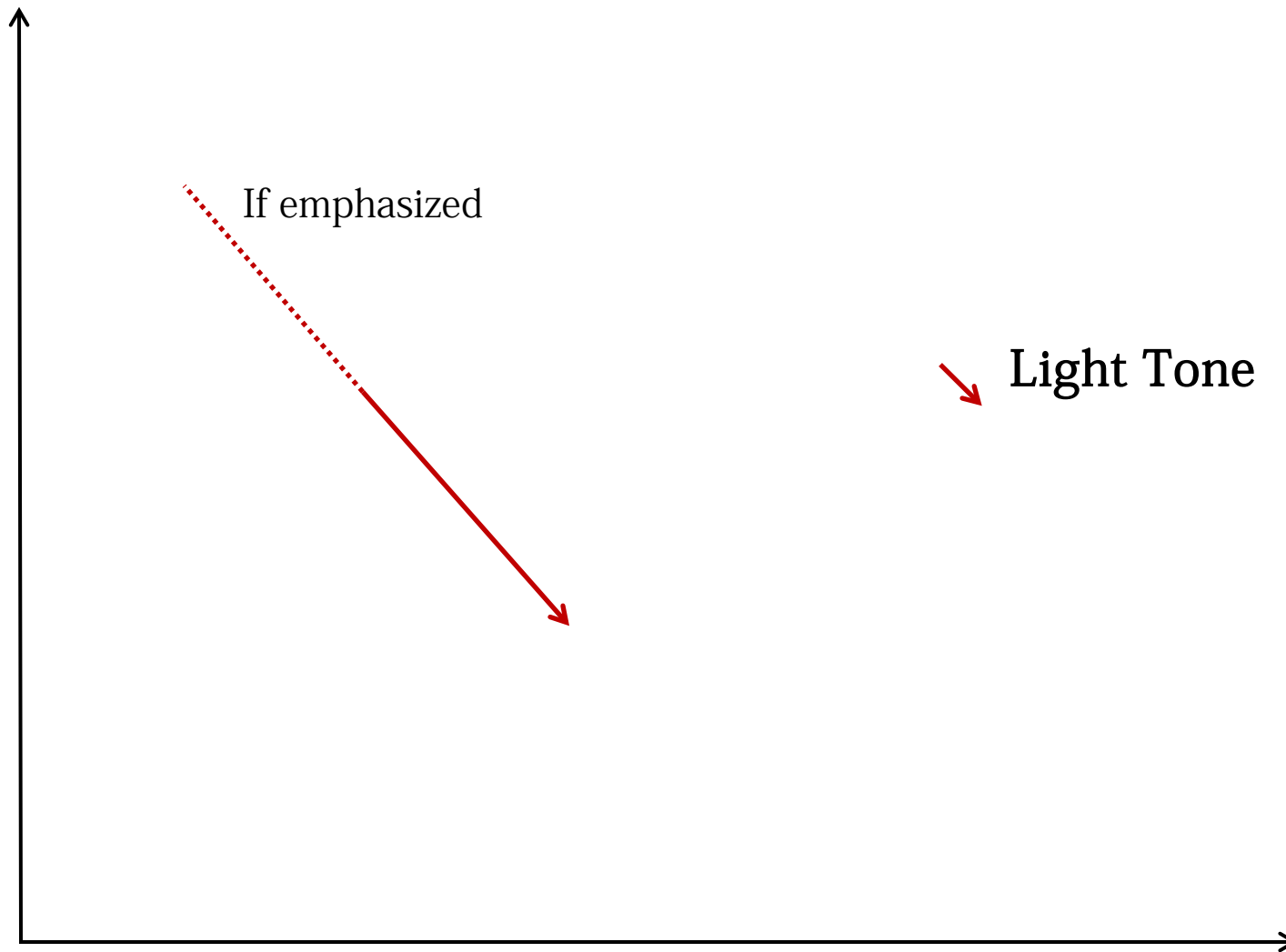
time

One important exception - No back-to-back 3rd tones

- When two 3rd tones are **back to back**, the first one **changes to 2nd tone**
 - 33 becomes 23
- When multiple 3rd tones are together, there can be multiple solutions as long as there is no consecutive 3rd tone. The last 3rd tone must remain.
 - 333 becomes 323 or 223
 - 3333 becomes 2323, 3223, or 2223

Tone #4

pitch



If emphasized

Light Tone

time

Exercise

Pronounce 1, 2, 3, 4 in tones

- 1234
- 4321
- 1 **1** 1 (bold = emphasized)
- 11 **1** 11
- 11 **1** 1 **1** 11
- 2**2**2
- **2**2**2**2**2**2
- 323232**3**
- 44**4**44
- 3131313
- 1313131
- 2424242
- 3214321
- 3412341
- 1432143
- 1234123
- 3213131

Exercise

季 jì

姬 jī

擊 jī

雞 jī

記 jì

(Ms. Ji hits chicken)

季 jì 棘 jī 雞 jī 急 jì 即 jì 雞 jī 雞 jī
 姬 jī 雞 jī 既 jì 咭 jī 籍 jī 噤 jī 既 jì
 寂 jī 飢 jī 濟 jì 雞 jī 箕 jī 集 jī 殛 jī
 , 噤 jī , 躋 jī 雞 jī 擊 jī 幾 jī ,
 集 jī 雞 jī 季 jì 姬 jī 笈 jī , 擊 jī 幾 jī ,
 雞 jī 及 jī , 繼 jī 疾 jī 姬 jī ,
 即 jì 箕 jī 季 jì 圾 jī 擊 jī 急 jì 即 jì
 棘 jī 稷 jī 姬 jī 幾 jī 幾 jī 極 jī 記 jì
 雞 jī 濟 jì 忌 jī , 伎 jī 屐 jī 季 jì
 。 雞 jī , 季 jì , 姬 jī 即 jì 雞 jī 擊 jī
 急 jì 齋 jī , 擊 jī 雞 jī 擊 jī 雞 jī
 , 急 jì 齋 jī , 雞 jī 記 jì 。