

JYUT PING AND YALE ROMANIZATION CORRESPONDENCES

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The *ABC Cantonese-English Comprehensive Dictionary* has transcribed the pronunciations of its Cantonese lexical items in the romanization system known as **Jyutping** 粵拼, or *Jyut6 Jyu5 Ping3 Jam1* 粵語拼音, that was created by the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong in 1993 (Jyutping's formal English name is 'Linguistic Society of Hong Kong Cantonese romanization scheme').

Although the Yale romanization system for Cantonese, which was developed in the early 1950's in the U.S.A., can be said to be in relatively wider use for teaching Cantonese as a second language to foreign students than Jyutping, nonetheless, Yale romanization has some drawbacks that made its use impractical for this dictionary. Jyutping was adopted for three main reasons: First, computer-input of Jyutping's letters and numbers is far more user-friendly (i.e., convenient and efficient) than Yale – indeed, all the required symbols are found on the computer's keyboard; Yale, on the other hand, marks the tones with three diacritics, namely acute á, grave à, and macron ā, that are placed over letters for the vowels and the consonants g and m (with acute and grave accents further combined with the letter “h” to mark the lower register tones); in the author's view these diacritics made using Yale too tedious and unwieldy. Second, the author's input method for the Chinese characters has been via Jyutping. And third, Jyutping is relatively more contemporary, and so it accurately and comprehensively reflects the changes that have taken place in Cantonese pronunciation over the past several decades; in contrast, Yale romanization does not seem to have ever been officially updated and revised, and so we find some gaps in this system (as indicated by the dashes in the table of rimes below).

When all is said and done, this dictionary's users who may already be familiar with the Yale romanization system can rest assured that many initial consonants (or initials) and rimes (or finals) are identical or similar in both romanization systems; and the major difference between Jyutping and Yale is in how they mark the tones. To provide a bridge from Jyutping to Yale romanization, the author has created the following three Tables of Jyut Ping and Yale Romanization Correspondences.

TABLES OF JYUTPING AND YALE ROMANIZATION CORRESPONDENCES

1. INITIAL CONSONANTS (OR INITIALS):

		<u>CHINESE-CHARACTER EXAMPLES:</u>		
<u>JYUTPING:</u>	<u>YALE:</u>		<u>JYUTPING:</u>	<u>YALE:</u>
b	b	巴	baa1	bà
c	ch	叉	caa1	chà
d	d	打	daa2	dá
f	f	花	faa1	fà
g	g	加	gaa1	gà
gw	gw	瓜	gwaa1	gwà
h	h	蝦	haa1	hà
j	y	也	jaa5	yáh
k	k	卡	kaa1	kā
kw	kw	婊	kwaa1	kwà
l	l	啦	laa1	là
m	m	媽	maa1	mà
m	m (syllabic)	唔	m4	m4
n	n	拿	naa4	nàh
ng	ng	牙	ngaa4	ngàh
ng	ng (syllabic)	五	ng5	ng5h
p	p	趴	paa1	pà
s	s	沙	saa1	sà
t	t	他	taa1	tà
w	w	話	waa6	wah
z	j	揸	zaa1	jà

2. RIMES (OR FINALS):CHINESE-CHARACTER EXAMPLES:

<u>JYUTPING:</u>	<u>YALE:</u>		<u>JYUTPING:</u>	<u>YALE:</u>
aa	a	巴	baa1	bà
aai	aai	拜	baai3	baai
aak	aak	百	baak3	baak
aam	aam	男	naam4	nàahm
aan	aan	班	baan1	bàan
aang	aang	澎	paang4	pàahng
aap	aap	鴨	ngaap3	ngaap
aat	aat	八	baat3	baat
aau	aau	包	baau1	bàau
ai	ai	閉	bai3	bai
ak	ak	北	bak1	bāk
am	am	泵	bam1	bām
an	an	奔	ban1	bàn
ang	ang	崩	bang1	bàng
ap	ap	笠	lap1	lāp
at	at	筆	bat1	bāt
au	au	剖	fau2	fáu
e	e	啤	be1	bè
ei	ei	俾	bei2	béi
ek	ek	隻	zek3	jek
em	—		—	—
en	—		—	—
eng	eng	柄	beng3	beng
eoi	eui	水	seoi2	séui
eon	eun	信	seon3	seun
eot	eut	恤	seot1	sēut
ep	—		—	—
et	—		—	—
eu	—		—	—
i	i	思	si1	sì
ik	ik	色	sik1	sīk
im	im	閃	sim2	sím
in	in	先	sin1	sìn

2. RIMES (OR FINALS) CONTINUED:**CHINESE-CHARACTER EXAMPLES:**

<u>JYUTPING:</u>	<u>YALE:</u>		<u>JYUTPING:</u>	<u>YALE:</u>
ing	ing	星	sing1	sìng
ip	ip	涉	sip3	sip
it	it	薛	sit3	sit
iu	iu	笑	siu3	siu
o	o	波	bo1	bò
oe	eu	靴	hoe1	hèu
oek	euk	雀	zoek3	jeuk
oeng	eung	香	hoeng1	hèung
oet	—		—	—
oi	oi	改	goi2	gói
ok	ok	膊	bok3	bok
on	on	安	on1	òn
ong	ong	港	gong2	góng
op	—		—	—
ot	ot	葛	got3	got
ou	ou	報	bou3	bou
u	u	古	gu2	gú
ui	ui	背	bui3	bui
uk	uk	卜	buk1	būk
um	—		—	—
un	un	搬	bun1	bùn
ung	ung	送	sung3	sung
up	—		—	—
ut	ut	括	kut3	kut
yu	yu	書	syu1	syù
yun	yun	算	syun3	syun
yut	yut	雪	syut3	syut

1. TONES:CHINESE-CHARACTER EXAMPLES:JYUTPING: YALE:High Level: High Falling:
aa1 à 他JYUTPING: YALE:High Level: High Falling:
taa1 tàHigh Level: High Level:
aa1 ā 卡High Level: High Level:
kaa1 kāMid Rising: High Rising:
aa2 á 靶Mid Rising: High Rising:
baa2 báMid Level:
aa3 a 霸Mid Level:
baa3 baLow Falling:
aa4 àh 爬Low Falling:
paa4 pàhLow Rising:
aa5 áh 馬Low Rising:
maa5 máhLow Level:
aa6 ah 罷Low Level:
baa6 bahEntering High Level:
at1 āt 筆Entering High Level:
bat1 bātEntering Mid Level:
aat3 aat 八Entering Mid Level:
baat3 baatEntering Low Level:
at6 aht 拔
aat6 aaht 辣Entering Low Level:
bat6 baht
laat6 laaht

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