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Xi'an



tones

Xi'an is a tonal language ('tonal quality' refers to the raising and lowering of pitch on certain syllables). In this chapter Xi'an is represented with four tones, as well as a fifth one, the neutral tone. Apart from the unmarked neutral tone, we have used symbols above the vowels to indicate each tone, as shown in the table below for the vowel 'a'. Bear in mind that the tones are relative to the natural vocal range of the speaker, eg the high tone is pronounced at the top of one's vocal range. Note also that some tones slide up or down in pitch.

high tone ā	high rising tone á	low falling-rising tone ǎ	high falling tone à
			