



Undergraduate assignment feedback form

(to be completed by marker)

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Module title: Phonology	
<i>For completion by marker:</i>	
<i>Comments:</i>	
<i>Marker's signature:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
<i>Provisional mark:</i> NB. All marks are provisional until confirmed by the final examination board.	

How to learn and study phonology effectively

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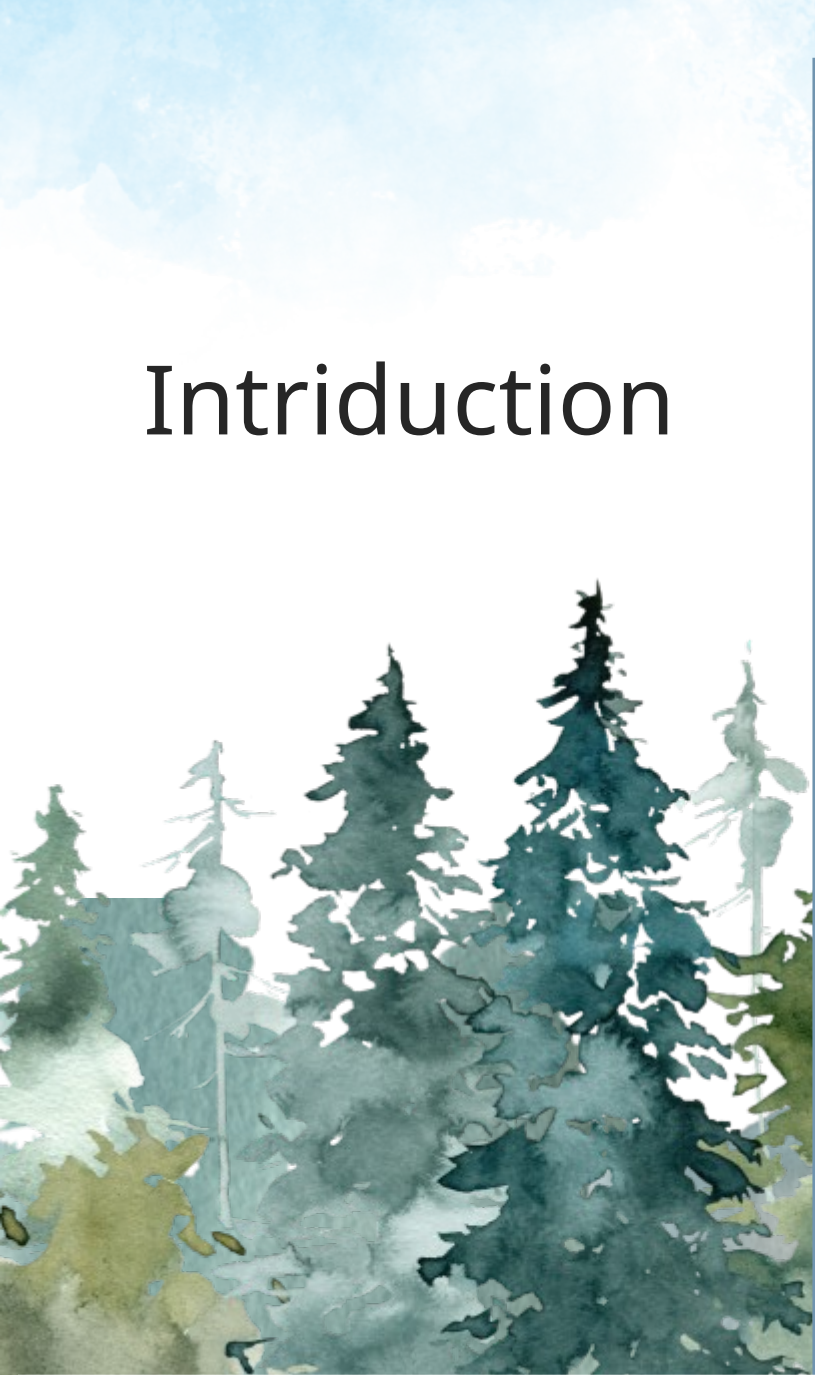
04 Conclusion



01

Intriduction





Introduction

- Initial consonant of a Chinese syllable (聲) + the simple or compound vowel of a Chinese syllable (韻)
- From a linguistic perspective: phonology is phonetics.
- Old Chinese phonology: archaic Chinese phonology (Zhou, Qin, and Han dynasties)
 - ancient Chinese phonology (from the Wei, Jin to Song dynasty)
 - recent phonology (From Yuan Dynasty to the present)
- When phonology is understood, the Six Scripts are understood; when the Six Scripts are understood, all ancient texts and classics can be comprehended.

音韻明而六書明，六書明而古經傳無不可通。¹

Intriduction

picto-phonetic method 形聲

borrowing method 假借

notative method 轉注

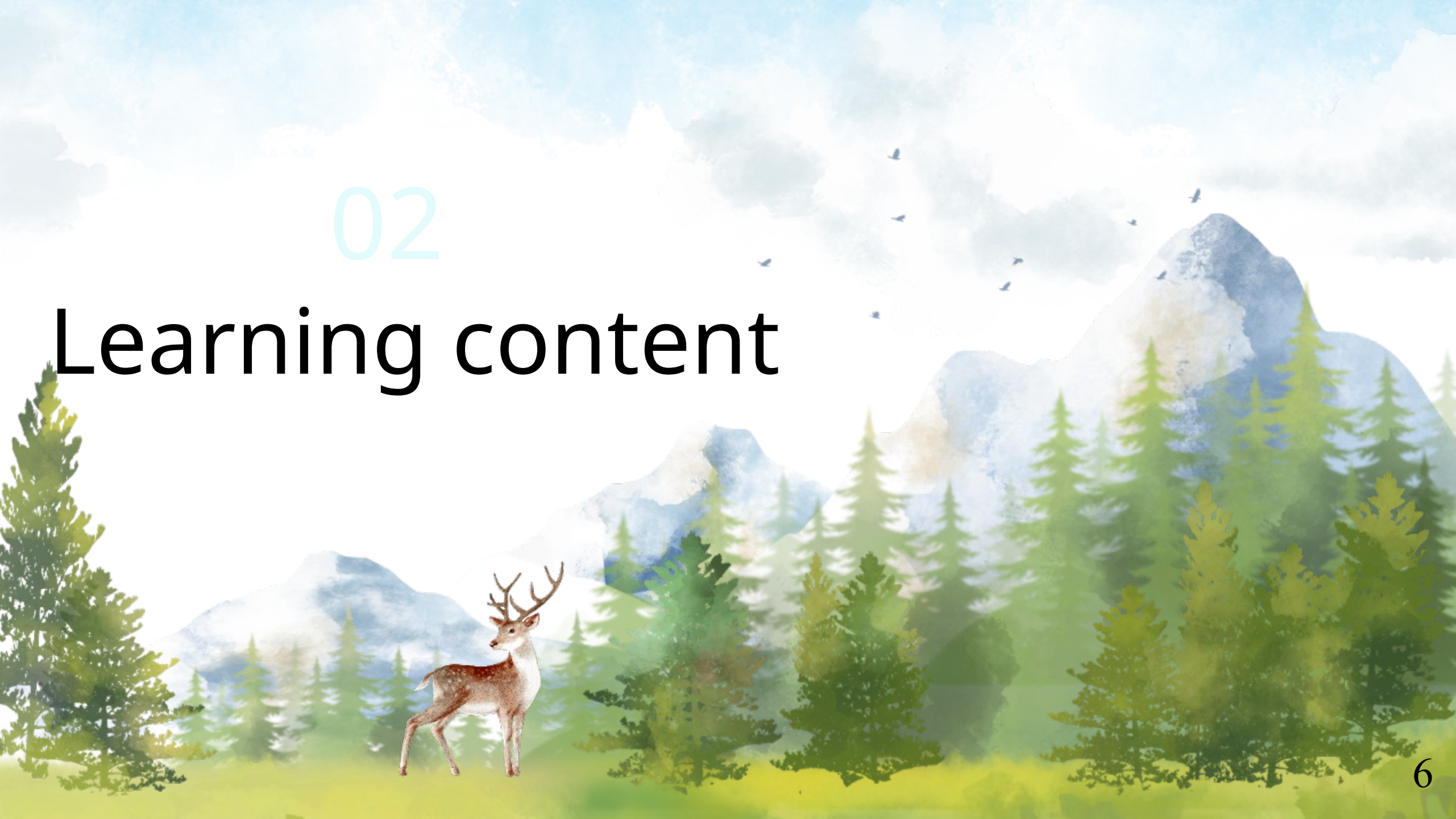
**related to
sound**

Start with two aspects: learning content

learning attitude

02

Learning content





01

Foundational knowledge of phonetics

02

To study the Nine Classics, one must start by examining the texts; understanding the texts begins with understanding the sounds.

讀九經必自考文始，考文自知音始。²

Academic terminology : Sheng

(聲)

《六書音韻表》

‘Ancient four-tone
theory’ 古四聲說³
tone

‘The Old Chinese
sounds differ, but
today they can be
verified through
examples 古音聲不
同，今隨舉可證’⁴

sound



one sound character can
harmonize tens of
thousands of words 一聲
可諧萬字

sound character

Usually
an initial consonant

3. Xu Shen 許慎 and Duan Yucai 段玉裁, Shuowen Jiezhizhu 說文解字注, p. 815.

4. Chu Chia-Ning 竺家寧, Shengyunxue 聲韻學, 2nd edn. (Taipei: Wunan tushu chuban gongsi, 2018), p.5.



01

the knowledge of phonetic analysis

02

consonants, vowels, and tones

03

alliterative syllables and rhymed syllables
雙聲疊韻



01

Dialects

02

documentary materials are written words
and lack vitality.

03

dialects are viable

03

Learning attitude





01

possess an interest in
exploring the unknown

02

comprehending knowledge
instead of memorizing it

03

critical thinking can be
triggered

01

Rigorous research

02

Phonology is a truth-seeking discipline
(substantial evidence when making assumptions)



01

an accurate conception of history.

02

two sets of palato-dental sounds, no labiodentals in the Sui Dynasty.

Middle Chinese period: labiodentals emerged, while palato-dental sounds merged into a single set.

01

keep pace with the Times and absorb new

02

insights and ideas

revise their academic views.

+paying more attention to new papers

+the research results of Western
phonologists

04 conclusion



acquire knowledge
of phonetics

01

analyze phonetic
element

02

dialect

03



04

rigorous and objective
learning attitude

05

accurate historical
concepts

06

newly unearthed literary
materials and new
published papers



Thank you

for listening

Bibliography

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