

Pinyin Initials

j/q/x

j/q

When you pronounce j and q, your tongue position and the shape of mouth is in the same manner. First raise the front of the tongue to the hard palate and press the tip of the tongue against the back of the lower teeth, and then loosen the tongue and let the air squeeze out through the channel thus made.

The difference of “j” and “q” is that “j” is an unaspirated sound, and “q” is an aspirated sound. It means if you put your finger in front of your mouth and pronounce “j”, you will feel nearly no air coming out. But when you pronounce “q”, your finger will feel a stream of air coming out.

x

To pronounce it, first raise the front of the tongue towards the hard palate. But notice that your tongue should not touch the hard palate. There is always a narrow gap between them. After that, let the air squeeze out from the narrow gap.

Spelling rule

Firstly, the finals that can be combined with “j, q, x” are limited to “i”, “ü” and compound finals that start with “i” or “ü”.

Second, when “j, q, x” spell together with “ü”, the two dots on the top of “ü” should be omitted when we write it. For example, this syllable “jü” should be written like this “ju”, but the pronunciation remains unchanged.

“j, q, x” cannot spell with “u”.

spell:

j/q/x + ü

write:

ü —> u