

of historical relics).

Noun phrases of seven or more syllables may be worked out by analogy with the principles outlined above.

## 2. Proper Nouns

### 2.1 Introduction

Proper nouns are those words which represent the names of individual people, places, nations, ethnic groups, and other such specific referents. HP follows the example of most other Latin-alphabet writing systems in using capital letters to denote the beginning of each word in a proper noun.

Aside from the use of capital letters, the written form of proper nouns differs in many other ways from that of common nouns. It is for this reason that we here devote a separate chapter to the topic of proper nouns. Firstly, a proper noun functions as a unitary symbol, referring to a specific person, place or thing. Thus there is no need to analyze the word structure of a proper noun when considering how to write it in HP. (For philological purposes, of course, it is still possible to so analyze them; but for ordinary purposes of usage it is unnecessary.) It is unnecessary, for instance, to analyze the name Chóngchūn 长春 (a city in Jilin Province, China) into cháng 长 (long) and chūn 春 (spring), or to break up Yìxiàntiān 一线天 (“A Thread of Sky” — a scenic spot in Hangzhou) into yī 一 (one), xiàn 线 (thread), and tiān 天 (sky). Similarly, personal names need not be analyzed into their com-

ponent parts. In this respect, proper nouns are similar to simple common nouns.

Secondly, proper nouns have their own orthographic rules, independent of those which govern common nouns. The personal name Lǚ Xùn 鲁迅, for example, is a single word and is treated as such in Chinese grammars, yet it is written as two units, in accordance with the rule of separating surname (Lǚ) and given name (Xùn) in writing. The place name Cháng Jiāng 长江 (Yangtse River) is a single word, but is written as two units, in obedience to the rule of separating specific name (Cháng, long) and general name (Jiāng, river) in writing.

Thirdly, in contrast to common nouns of foreign origin (for which see Chapter 1, Section 2), which are written according to their Putonghua pronunciation, proper nouns of non-Chinese origin are always transcribed just as they appear in the writing of the original language. “Washington, ” for instance, is written “Washington” in HP, not “Huóshèngdùn” as it would be according to the Putonghua pronunciation.

## 2.2 Place Names

The basic principle governing the written form of place names is that the specific and the general components of the name be written as separate units. For instance, Tàiháng Shān 太行山 (Taihang Mountain) is written with the specific name Tàiháng 太行 and the general name Shān 山 (mountain) separate; Héběi Shěng 河北省 (Hebei Province) is written with the specific name Héběi 河北 and the general name shěng 省 (Province) separate.

The general components that most commonly appear in place names are of two sorts: those referring to geographical features, such as Shān 山 (mountain), Hé 河 or Jiāng 江 (river), Hú 湖 (lake), Hǎi 海 (sea), Yáng 洋 (ocean), and Dǎo 岛 (island); and those which refer to man-made political or administrative divisions, such as Shěng 省 (province), Xiàn 县 (county), Shì 市 (city), Zhèn 镇 (town), Jiē 街 (street), and Lù 路 (road).

Chinese place names are of all sorts, and the question of orthography as it relates to them is a complex one. We will approach the question in accordance with the rules laid out in *Zhōngguó Dì míng Hànyǔ Pīnyīn Zìmǔ Pīnxiě Guīzé* (*Rules for Writing Chinese Place Names in Hanyu Pinyin*; Zhōngguó Dì míng Wěiyuánhuì, Zhōngguó Wénzì Gǎigé Wěiyuánhuì and Zhōngguó Guójiā Cèhuìjù, 1984).

1) For all place names in which both a specific and a general component can be identified, the two are written separately.

1 + 1

Huáng 黄 (yellow) + Hé 河 (river) → Huáng Hé 黄河 (Yellow River);

Tài 泰 + Shān 山 (mountain) → Tài Shān 泰山 (Mount Tai);

Xī 西 (West) + Hú 湖 (lake) → Xī Hú 西湖 (West Lake);

Dōng 东 (east) + Hǎi 海 (sea) → Dōng Hǎi 东海 (East China Sea);

Tōng 通 + Xiàn 县 (county) → Tōng Xiàn 通县 (Tong County).

2 + 1

Yàndòng 雁荡 + Shān 山 (mountain) → Yàndòng Shān 雁荡山 (Yandang Mountain);

Sōnghuā 松花 + Jiāng 江 (river) → Sōnghuā Jiāng 松花江 (Songhua River);

Dòngtíng 洞庭 + Hú 湖 (lake) → Dòngtíng Hú 洞庭湖 (Dongting Lake);

Tàipíng 太平 (“peace”) + Yáng 洋 (ocean) → Tàipíng Yáng 太平洋 (Pacific Ocean);

Hǎinán 海南 + Dǎo 岛 (island) → Hǎinán Dǎo 海南岛 (Hainan Island);

Sìchuān 四川 + Shěng 省 (province) → Sìchuān Shěng 四川省 (Sichuan Province);

Hóngkǒu 虹口 + Qū 区 (district) → Hóngkǒu Qū 虹口区 (Hongkou District);

Cháng'ān 长安 + Jiē 街 (street) → Cháng'ān Jiē 长安街 (Chang'an Street).

2 + 2

Zhōushān 舟山 + Qúndǎo 群岛 (archipelago) → Zhōushān Qúndǎo 舟山群岛 (Zhoushan Archipelago);

Táiwān 台湾 + Hǎixiá 海峡 (straits) → Táiwān Hǎixiá 台湾海峡 (Taiwan Straits);

Hóngxīng 红星 + Hútòng 胡同 (lane) → Hóngxīng Hútòng 红星胡同 (Hongxing Lane).

**Note:** In the case of a city or town formed by the merging of two previously existing cities, one syllable from each of the old names is often taken to form the new name. Lǚdà Shì 旅大市 (the city of Lüda), for instance, is the result of the merging of Lǚshùn 旅顺 and Dàlián 大连, and Xiāngfān Shì 襄樊市 (the city of Xiangfan) is the result of the merging of Xiāngyáng 襄阳 and Fánchéng 樊城. No hyphen is required to separate the two city-name components in such names. A hyphen is required, however, in those similar-looking constructions which indicate highways, rail lines and air or boat routes: Chéng-Yú Tiělù 成渝铁路 (Chengdu-Chongqing Railway; Yú 渝 is another name for Chongqing), Jīng-Jīn Gōnglù 京津公路 (Beijing-Tianjin Highway).

Man-made objects such as buildings and bridges are often used as place names; like other place names, these are split into their specific and general components in writing:

Zhàozhōu 赵州 + Qiáo 桥 (bridge) → Zhàozhōu Qiáo 赵州桥 (Zhaozhou Bridge);

Huánghè 黄鹤 (yellow crane) + Lóu 楼 (tower) →  
Huánghè Lóu 黄鹤楼 (Yellow Crane Tower);

Shàolín 少林 + Sì 寺 (temple) → Shàolín Sì 少林寺 (Shaolin Temple);

Nánjīng 南京 + Zhàn 站 (station) → Nánjīng Zhàn 南京站 (Nanjing Station);

Xīnghǎi 星海 + Gōngyuán 公园 (park) → Xīnghǎi  
Gōngyuán 星海公园 (Xinghai Park);

Qīnghuá 清华 + Dàxué 大学 (university) → Qīnghuá

Dòxué 清华大学 (Qinghua University);

Xīnhuá 新华 + Shūdiàn 书店 (bookstore) → Xīnhuá

Shūdiàn 新华书店 (Xinhua Bookstore).

Sometimes a personal name functions as the specific component of a place name. If the personal name has lost its original associations and been reduced to a mere symbol, then it should be written as one unit:

Zuǒquán Xiàn 左权县 (Zuoquan County),

(Zuǒ Quán is a personal name);

Zhāngzhīdòng Lù 张之洞路 (Zhangzhidong Road),

(Zhāng Zhīdòng is a personal name).

If, on the other hand, the personal name retains its original meaning and refers clearly to the person it belongs to, then it should be written as two units, surname and given name:

Lǚ Xùn Jìniànguǎn 鲁迅纪念馆 (Lu Xun Museum);

Sūn Zhōngshān Jìniàntáng 孙中山纪念堂 (Sun Yat-sen Memorial),

(Sun Zhongshan is the standard Chinese form of Sun Yat-sen).

2) When the general component of a place name is used as part of the specific component in another name, it should be

written as a single unit with the rest of the specific component.

Sometimes the general component of a place name, over the course of time or through other factors, becomes part of the specific component of another place name. It is important to remember in this case that the distinction between specific and general names is a relative, not an absolute, one.

An example of the transformation from general to specific may be found in the name Hēilóngjiāng Shěng 黑龙江省 (Heilongjiang Province). The province takes its name from Hēilóng Jiāng 黑龙江 (the Heilong River), which marks its northern border. In the river's name, Jiāng 江 (river) is a general component; in the province's name, Hēilóngjiāng 黑龙江 is written as one unit and forms the specific component.

Jǐngdé Zhèn 景德镇 (Jingde Town) was long the name of a town know for its ceramic wares. Over time, the town grew into a city, and its name was changed to Jǐngdézhèn Shì 景德镇市 (Jingdezhen City). The general name Zhèn 镇 (town) became part of the specific name.

Near Xī Hú 西湖 (West Lake) in Zhejiang Province may be found the Xīhú Bīnguǎn 西湖宾馆 (West Lake Hotel); here, Hú 湖 (lake) becomes part of the specific component, while Bīnguǎn 宾馆 (hotel) supplies the general component. Xī Hú lies in an area historically known as Hóng Zhōu 杭州 (the administrative district of Hang), in whose name Zhōu 州 acts as a general component; the modern city that sits on the shores of Xī Hú is called Hóngzhōu Shì 杭州市 (Hangzhou City).

There are two advantages to writing the transformed general component as one unit with the remainder of the specific compo-

nent: a) it preserves the separation between the specific and general components of the place name, and keeps the whole form from becoming fragmentized (Jīngdézhèn Shì is easier on the eye than Jīngdé Zhèn Shì); and b) it reduces ambiguity in writing (Hēilóng Jiāng denotes the river, and Hēilóngjiāng, with or without the “Shěng,” the province):

3) Additional single-syllable elements are written as one unit with the specific or general component they modify.

Additional syllables are often added onto the specific or general component of a place name, usually to indicate location, size, or relative age. These syllables most often precede the components they modify. For greater compactness and readability, these elements are written as one unit with the component they modify.

Element added onto the specific component:

Líáo Hé 辽河 (Liao River), Xīlíáo Hé 西辽河 (West Liao River);

Cháng'ān Jiē 长安街 Dōngcháng'ān Jiē 东长安街  
(Chang'an Street), (East Chang'an Street);

Guǎibàng Hútong 拐棒胡同 Qiánquǎibàng Hútong 前拐棒胡同 (Front Guaibang Lane),  
胡同 (Front Guaibang Lane);

Tōngyáng Yùnhé 通扬运河 Xīntōngyáng Yùnhé 新通扬运河 (Tongyang Canal),  
河 (New Tongyang Canal);

Jīnmén Dǎo 金门岛 Xiǎojīnmén Dǎo 小金门岛 (Jinmen Island),  
(Little Jinmen Island).

Element added onto the general component:

Cháobái Hé 潮白河 (Chaobai River),



Cháobái Xínhé 潮白新河 (New Chaobai River);  
Zhōngshān Lù 中山路 (Zhongshan Road);  
Zhōngshān Nánlù 中山南路 (South Zhongshan Road);  
Tàipíng Jiē 太平街 (Taiping Street),  
Tàipíng Hòujiē 太平后街 (Rear Taiping Street);  
Chēzhàn Lù 车站路 (Chezhan Road),  
Chēzhàn Èrlù 车站二路 (Second Chezhan Road).

Elements added onto both components:

Xīsānhuán Zhōnglù 西三环中路 (Third Loop Road, West Middle Section);

Nánhéng Dōngjiē 南横东街 (Eastern Section of South Heng Street);

Cháoyángmén<sub>nèi</sub> Nánxiǎojiē 朝阳门内南小街 (Inner Chaoyang Gate South Lane).

Some place names are phrases composed of several polysyllabic words. These are split up into individual words for greater readability:

Wūhàn Chángjiāng Dàqiáo 武汉长江大桥  
(Yangtse River, Wuhan);

Shànghǎi Jiāotōng Dàxué 上海交通大学  
(Shanghai Communications University);

Zhōnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó 中华人民共和国  
(People's Republic of China);

Běijīng Gōngrén Tìyùguǎn 北京工人体育馆  
(Beijing Workers' Gymnasium);

Guǎng'ānmén Chēzhàn Dōngjiē 广安门车站东街  
(Guang'an Gate Station East Street).

4) Written forms of names of villages and other local place names.

The place names discussed above are of types easily divided into specific and general components. There are numerous village and town names throughout China, however, which do not share this characteristic. Many of these names are three-syllable compounds in which the final syllable is one of the following: cūn 村 (village), zhèn 镇 (town), diàn 店 (inn), pù 铺 (shop), bǎo 堡 (fort), qiáo 桥 (bridge), miào 庙 (temple), jí 集 (market), jǐng 井 (well), lóu 楼 (tower), kǒu 口 (river mouth), yì 驿 (station), yíng 营 (camp), chǎng 场 (market), gōu 沟 (ditch), zhuāng 庄 (manor), or zhài 寨 (stockade). In many cases, the inns, temples, bridges and so on for which these places were named have long since passed out of existence. There has been no bridge at Yóufángqiáo 油坊桥 for ages, nor any well near Wángfǔjǐng 王府井 (Street), nor any tower at Qíhélóu 骑河楼. In order to reduce the overall complexity of writing place names, all names of this sort which do not describe administrative divisions are written as one unit, with no separation between the specific and general components. Here are a few examples of this very common type of place name:

Wángcūn 王村

Pánlóngzhèn 蟠龙镇

Zhōukǒudiàn 周口店  
Dàhuángbǎo 大黄堡  
Guānyīnmiào 观音庙  
Sānyǎnjǐng 三眼井  
Sānjiāngkǒu 三江口  
Tiějiàngyíng 铁匠营  
Méntóugōu 门头沟  
Niúfēngzhài 牛峰寨

Shílǐpù 十里铺  
Jiǔxiānqiáo 酒仙桥  
Lǐjiājí 李家集  
Guāngmínglóu 光明楼  
Lóngquányì 龙泉驿  
Sōngfēngchǎng 松风场  
Tái'érzhuāng 台儿庄  
Tàipínggōu 太平沟

Note: This type of place name is sometimes hard to distinguish from the type introduced in 1) above, in which specific and general components are written separately. If unsure about a Chinese place name, it is best to refer to a Chinese atlas that has notations in HP.

Some scenic spots have literary or metaphorical names which defy division into specific and general components. Such names should be written as a single unit, e.g.:

Yìxiàntiān 一线天 (A Thread of Sky);  
Shuǐzhūlián 水珠帘 (Water-bead Curtain);  
Bǎihuāshēnchù 百花深处 (Deep Amid a Hundred Flowers);  
Liǔlàngwényīng 柳浪闻莺 (Hearing Orioles by the Wil-  
lows and the Waves);  
Píng hú qiū yuè 平湖秋月 (Calm Lake and Autumn  
Moon);  
Tóng hú dī lóu 铜壶滴漏 (Copper Water-Clock).

5) Place names that include numerals.

It is not unusual for a place name to include a numeral. The numeral is generally written out in Latin letters, e.g.:

Wǔzhǐ Shān 五指山 (Wuzhi “Five-Finger” Mountain);  
Jiǔlóng Jiāng 九龙江 (Jiulong “Nine-Dragon” River);  
Jiǔzhài Gōu 九寨沟 (Jiuzhai “Nine-Stockade” Ditch);  
Sānmén Xiá 三门峡 (Sanmen “Three-Gate” Gorge);  
Dì-èr Sōnghuā Jiāng 第二松花江 (Second Songhua River);  
Sānyǎnjīng Hútóng 三眼井胡同 (Sanyanjing “Three Wells”  
Lane);  
Bājiǎochǎng Dōngjiē 八角场东街 (Bajiaochang “Octagon  
Plaza” East Street);  
Sānbā Lù 三八路 (Three-Eight “March Eight” Road);  
Wúyī Guǎngchǎng 五一广场 (Five-One “May First”  
Square).

Code numbers and ordinal numbers used in street names, however, should be written in Arabic numerals:

1203 Gāodì 1203 高地 (Height 1203);  
1718 Fēng 1718 峰 (Peak 1718);  
Dàchuāndiàn 1 Xiàng 大川淀一巷 (Lane 1, Dachuandian);  
Dōngsì 12 Tiáo 东四十二条 (Strip 12, Dongsi);  
Dì-9 Lòng 第九弄 (Lane 9).

6) Place names and tone markers.

On maps marked in HP and in many other places, Chinese

place names are written without tone markers, as: Beijing rather than Běijīng, Shanghai rather than Shànghǎi. This practice is not appropriate everywhere; without tone markers, it is impossible to distinguish the province Shānxī Shěng 山西省 from its neighbor Shǎnxī Shěng 陕西省. In this particular case, confusion is avoided by writing Shānxī 山西 as “Shanxi” and Shǎnxī 陕西 as “Shaanxi,” with a double “a.”

The problem of similarity in names is even more serious on the county level. One way to avoid confusion here is to add the name of the province (or its abbreviated form; see the appendix at the end of this section for a list of province abbreviations) in parentheses after the county name, e.g.:

Changning Xian (YN, Yunnan Sheng) 昌宁县 (云南省)

Changning Xian (HN, Hunan Sheng) 常宁县 (湖南省)

Changning Xian (SC, Sichuan Sheng) 长宁县 (四川省)

Baoshan Xian (YN, Yunnan Sheng) 保山县 (云南省)

Baoshan Xian (SH, Shanghai Shi) 宝山县 (上海市)

It remains only to discuss the question of address writing. A mailing address is essentially a long string of place names, starting at the highest level and working down to the lowest. For clarity in reading, it is best to separate each level from its neighbors with commas, thus:

Zhōnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó, Běijīng Shì, Cháoyáng Qū,  
Tuánjiéhú Lù 203 hào.

中华人民共和国，北京市，朝阳区，团结湖路 203 号

(People's Republic of China, Beijing Municipality, Chaoyang District, 203 Tuanjiehu Road).

***Appendix: Full Names, Short Forms and Abbreviations  
for Provinces, Autonomous Regions  
and Municipalities***

(Note: shěng 省 = province, zìzhìqū 自治区 = autonomous region, shì 市 = municipality)

<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Short Form</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>
Anhui Sheng 安徽省	Wan (皖)	AH
Beijing Shi 北京市	Jing (京)	BJ
Fujian Sheng 福建省	Min (闽)	FJ
Guangdong Sheng 广东省	Yue (粤)	GD
Gansu Sheng 甘肃省	Gan (甘)	GS
Guangxi Zhuangzu Zizhiqu 广西壮族自治区	Gui (桂)	GX

Chinese Romanization: Pronunciation and Orthography

<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Short Form</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>
Guizhou Sheng 贵州省	Gui (贵)	GZ
Hubei Sheng 湖北省	E (鄂)	HB
Hebei Sheng 河北省	Ji (冀)	HEB
Henan Sheng 河南省	Yu (豫)	HEN
Heilongjiang Sheng 黑龙江省	Hei (黑)	HL
Hunan Sheng 湖南省	Xiang (湘)	HN
Jilin Sheng 吉林省	Ji (吉)	JL
Jiangsu Sheng 江苏省	Su (苏)	JS
Jiangxi Sheng 江西省	Gan (赣)	JX
Liaoning Sheng 辽宁省	Liao (辽)	LN

Chinese Romanization: Pronunciation and Orthography

<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Short Form</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>
Nei Monggol Zizhiqu 内蒙古自治区	Nei Monggol (内蒙古)	NM
Ninggxia Huizu Zizhiqu 宁夏回族自治区	Ning (宁)	NX
Qinghai Sheng 青海省	Qing (青)	QH
Sichuan Sheng 四川省	Chuan (川)	SC
Shandong Sheng 山东省	Lu (鲁)	SD
Shanghai Shi 上海市	Hu (沪)	SH
Shaanxi Sheng 陕西省	Shaan (陕)	SN
Shanxi Sheng 山西省	Jin (晋)	SX
Tianjin Shi 天津市	Jin (津)	TJ



<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Short Form</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>
Taiwan Sheng 台湾省	Tai (台)	TW
Xinjiang Uygur Zizhiqu 新疆维吾尔自治区	Xin (新)	XJ
Xizang Zizhiqu 西藏自治区	Zang (藏)	XZ
Yunnan Sheng 云南省	Yun (云)	YN
Zhejiang Sheng 浙江省	Zhe (浙)	ZJ

### 2.3 Personal Names

The discussion of personal names in this section confines itself to names of ethnic Han Chinese origin; names of non-Chinese and of the ethnic minorities of China will be discussed in Section 4 below. Like place names, personal names are of many forms, and the rules governing their writing are fairly complicated. Generally speaking, personal names may be divided into two categories, formal and non-formal. Terms relating to posts and ranks, seniority within the family, personal address, and titles are also discussed here, as they fall within the general

scope of personal names. The treatment of personal names presented here follows the spirit of Zhōngguó Rénmín Hànyǔ Pīnyīn Zìmǔ Pīnxiěfǎ (*The Hanyu Pinyin Alphabet Writing of Chinese Personal Names*; Zhōngguó Wénzì Gǎigé Wěiyuánhui, 1976).

### 1) Formal names

Han Chinese personal names are composed of two parts, xìng 姓 (surname) and míng 名 (given name). In usage, the surname always precedes the given name.

Nearly all Han surnames are monosyllabic, though there are a small number of disyllabic surnames. At least five thousand surnames have been used by the Han over the course of their history; only a few hundred, however, are in wide use today.

Given names in ancient times were most commonly monosyllabic, but nowadays tend to be disyllabic. A confusing feature of ancient Han names is that men possessed several given names: in addition to a míng 名, they also used a zì 字 (which was assumed upon reaching manhood) and a hào 号 (also assumed later in life). The Song dynasty hero Yuè Fēi 岳飞 was also known as Yuè Péngjǔ 岳鹏举; Fēi was his míng and Péngjǔ his zì. The Song poet Sū Shì 苏轼 was also known as Sū Dōngpō 苏东坡; Shì was his míng, Dōngpō his hào. Each of these three kinds of given names: míng, zì, and hào had its own range of use, dictated by the conventions of the period. Modern Han Chinese, however, use only one given name, the míng.

Personal names are written with the surname and the given name separated, and with each of the two components capitalized. Remember as you look at the examples below that the surname always comes first.

1 + 1

Zhāng Fēi 张飞

Qū Yuán 屈原

Huáng Xīng 黄兴

Léi Fēng 雷锋

1 + 2 (This is the most common form for modern names)

Huò Qùbìng 霍去病

Qī Jìguāng 戚继光

Sūn Zhōngshān 孙中山

Zhōu Ènlái 周恩来

2 + 1

Sīmǎ Qiān 司马迁

Zhūgě Liàng 诸葛亮

Dōngfāng Shuò 东方朔

Ōuyáng Hǎi 欧阳海

2 + 2

Sīmǎ Xiāngrú 司马相如

Huángfǔ Wúyì 皇甫无逸

Ōuyáng Yúqiàn 欧阳子倩

Sītú Hùlǐn 司徒慧敏

In the past, Han Chinese women habitually used their husband's surname and their own together. In writing names of this type, the surnames are linked by a hyphen:

Zhāng-Luó Yùxiù 张罗玉秀

Wáng-Guō Gulíng 王郭桂英

There are three points still to be discussed with regard to

formal personal names:

a. In the past it was common to separate the two syllables of a Han given name in writing by a hyphen, as: Zhōu Ēn-lǐ. This is not considered standard usage in HP. The given name is a single entity and should not be broken up; moreover, use of the hyphen to clarify syllable boundaries is entirely superfluous (see Part I, 6.3). For these reasons, HP does not use the hyphen in this manner.

b. Since the order of surname and given name in a Han personal name is the opposite of that used in many Western countries, Han names often generate confusion among people of other nationalities. Names in which surname and given name are both monosyllabic are the most apt to be reversed inadvertently: an English speaker, for instance, looking at the name Fāng Yǒng 方杨 will probably assume that Yǒng rather than Fāng is the surname. In order to avoid confusion, it is advisable to use the technique, generally recognized in international circles, of capitalizing every letter of the surname, thus: FĀNG Yǒng, LIÚ Jiànguó.

c. People of other nationalities frequently use abbreviations in writing their names. Since Han names are already extremely short, it is unnecessary to adopt abbreviations for them. Another form of simplification—the omission of tone markers—is used when Han names appear in international use: Zhou Enlai, or ZHOU Enlai.

## 2) Non-formal names

Non-formal names include pen names, stage names, Buddhist, Taoist and Christian names, aliases and nicknames. Since no particular rules govern the form of these names, they take on

all kinds of forms; some are up to ten syllables in length, while others are made up of elements from classical Chinese. This great variety makes them difficult to set orthographic rules for. In general, non-formal names may be divided into two categories, as described below.

Names of the first type resemble formal personal names in form, and can be split into surname and given name. Pen names are most commonly of this type. The writer Zhōu Shùrén 周树人, for example, took Lǚ Xùn 鲁迅 as his pen name; Lǚ 鲁 is an actual Han surname and Xùn is a possible given name, so the whole may be treated as a formal personal name and written accordingly. Some more examples of this sort of non-formal name are given below:

- Máo Dùn 茅盾 (pen name; a modern Chinese author and playwright);
- Dīng Líng 丁玲 (pen name; a modern Chinese author);
- Lǚ Bān 鲁班 (professional name; a master carpenter of the Chunqiu period);
- Zhāng Sān 张三 (nickname; sān 三 means number three);
- Méi Lánfāng 梅兰芳 (stage name; a Peking opera actor);
- Sēng Yíxíng 僧一行 (Buddhist name; a Tang dynasty astronomer);
- Sūn Wùkōng 孙悟空 (Buddhist name; a character from the novel *Journey to the West*);
- Wáng Tiěrén 王铁人 (nickname: "Iron Man Wang");
- Bāo Qīngtiān 包青天 (nickname: "Upright Bao"; Song dynasty statesman Bāo Zhēng 包拯);

- Liǔ Liǔzhōu 柳柳州** (nickname; Tang dynasty writer **Liǔ Zōngyuán 柳宗元**, **Liǔ Zhōu 柳州** is a place name);  
**Zhāng Bìdé 张彼德** (Christian name; **Bìdé = Peter**);  
**Lì Mǎdòu 利玛窦** (Chinese name of the 17th-century Italian missionary **Matteo Ricci**).

Skilled craftsmen of every profession take nicknames from their skills: **Wáng Pàngyā 王胖鸭** (Fat Duck Wang) is famed for his skill in preparing duck dishes, **Nírén Cháng 泥人常** (Clay Figurine Chang) for his skill at making clay figurines. Names of this type can all be divided into surname and given name, and written accordingly.

Non-formal names of the second type have no resemblance to formal names, and cannot be analyzed into surname and given name. The simplest way to regulate their written form is according to syllables: names of three or fewer syllables are written as one unit, while names of four or more are divided according to words or word-units. This principle is demonstrated in the examples below.

- Bō 波** (“Wave”; pen name);  
**Hǎi 海** (“Sea”; pen name);  
**Lǜzhū 绿珠** (“Green Pearl”; stage name);  
**Mòchóu 莫愁** (“Don’t Worry”; nickname);  
**Dōngdong 东东** (“East-East”; childhood name);  
**Chūnshēng 春生** (“Spring-Born”; childhood name);  
**Qīngwén 晴雯** (“Clear Sky, Colored Clouds”; name of a servant girl);

- Nézhū 哪吒 (name of a deity);  
Tàixū 太虚 (“The Great Void”; Taoist name);  
Dàpào 大炮 (“Big Gun”; nickname);  
Liúshāhé 流沙河 (“River of Quicksand”; pen name);  
Liùlǐngtóng 六龄童 (“Six-year-old Child”; stage name);  
Sānxiāngū 三仙姑 (“Three Immortals Girl”; nickname);  
Báigǔjīng 白骨精 (“White Bone Demon”; name of a monster);  
Cáishényé 财神爷 (“God of Wealth”; nickname);  
Húlúsēng 葫芦僧 (“Monk of the Gourd”; nickname);  
Bàozitóu 豹子头 (“Leopard Head”; nickname);  
Héngtáng Tuīshì 蕲塘退士 (“Retired Scholar of Hengtang”; pen name);  
Gōngsūn Dàniáng 公孙大娘 (“Aunty Gongsun”; stage name);  
Tàibái Jīnxīng 太白金星 (“Highest White Golden Star”; name of the god of the planet Venus);  
Jiānhú Nǚxiá 鉴湖女侠 (“The Woman Knight of Jian Lake”; nickname);  
Luòtuó Xiángzi 骆驼祥子 (“Camel Xiangzi”; nickname);  
Lánlíng Xiàoxiàoshēng 兰陵笑笑生 (“Sound of Laughter on Orchid Hill”; pen name);  
Hóngyīnguǎn Zhǔrén 红茵馆主人 (“Master of the House of Red Mats”; nickname);  
Yùgāng Sǎoyè Dàorén 郁冈扫叶道人 (“The Taoist Who Sweeps the Leaves at Yugang”; nickname);  
Gémìngjūn zhōng Mǎqiánzú 革命军中马前卒 (“Pawn of the Revolutionary Army”; nickname).

In children's stories and folk tales, animals or inanimate objects are often personified and given personal names. The personal component of such names should be capitalized, as: Hēixióng yéye 黑熊爷爷 (Grandfather Black Bear), Húli xiǎojiě 狐狸小姐 (Miss Fox), Yuèliang pópo 月亮婆婆 (Grandmother Moon), etc.

Classical Chinese novels often use the non-formal and formal names of a character together. A dash is interposed between the two names when they are written in HP.

Dàdāo—Wáng Wǔ 大刀王五 (“Big Sword” Wang Number Five);

Hēixuànfēng—Lǐ Kuí 黑旋风李逵 (“Black Tornado” Li Kui);

Bàozitóu—Lín Chōng 豹子头林冲 (“Leopard Head” Lin Chong);

Pīnmìng Sānlǎng—Shí Xiù 拼命三郎石秀 (“Death-Defying Brother Number Three” Shi Xiu);

Gǒutóu Jūnshī—Lǐ Biāo 狗头军师李彪 (“Dog-Head Military Adviser” Li Biao).

### 3) Forms of address

Forms of address include official titles, conferred titles, terms indicating a post or job occupied, terms indicating seniority within a family, and respectful and affectionate forms of address. These terms are introduced in this section because they are frequently used together with a surname or given name in addressing a person. They are not pure personal names, however, as



they include elements of common nouns. In general, forms of address may be divided into two types: general and specific.

General forms of address are those which can apply to more than one person. An example is Zhāng xiānsheng 张先生 (Mr. Zhang), which can be applied to any man whose surname is Zhāng. The correct written form for such names is with the surname or given name separate from the term of address, the former capitalized (e.g. Zhāng) and the latter with a lower-case initial (e.g. xiānsheng). Some examples of this form follow:

Lǐ jūn 李君 (Mr. Li);

Wáng xiōng 王兄 (Mr. Wang; xiōng literally means “elder brother”);

Wú mā 吴妈 (Mrs. Wu; mā literally means “mother”);

Xiāng mèi 香妹 (Miss Xiang; mèi literally means “younger sister”, and Xiāng is a given name);

Zhāng sǎo 张嫂 (Mrs. Zhang; sǎo literally means “sister-in-law”);

Liú jiě 刘姐 (Miss Liu; jiě literally means “elder sister”);

Zhào bó 赵伯 (Mr. Zhao; bó literally means “uncle”);

Qián lǎo 钱老 (Our respected comrade Qian);

Lín xiānsheng 林先生 (Mr. Lin);

Fù nǚshì 傅女士 (Ms. Fu);

Sūn lǎoyé 孙老爷 (Mr. Sun; lǎoyé 老爷 is an obsolete term, originally used by servants in addressing their master);

Dài tóngzhì 戴同志 (Comrade Dai);

Jīn tài tai 金太太 (Mrs. Jin);

Kǒng xiǎojiě 孔小姐 (Miss Kong);

Liaò shīfu 廖师傅 (Master Liao; shīfu is a general term with wide application);

Dèng dànmā 邓大妈 (Mrs. Deng; dànmā literally means “mother”);

Xuéwén xiōng 学文兄 (Mr. Xuewen; xiōng literally means elder “brother”, and Xuéwén is a given name);

Yùlán māmā 玉兰妈 (Mrs. Yulan; māmā literally means “mother”, and Yùlán is a given name);

Zhōu zhǔxí 周主席 (Chairman Zhou);

Yáng bùzhǎng 杨部长 (Minister Yang, in a governmental, not a religious, sense);

Hé lǎoshī 何老师 (Professor He; lǎoshī is used to address all teachers);

Xiào kuàijì 肖会计 (Accountant Xiao);

Chén sījī 陈司机 (Driver Chen);

Zhū xiùcái 朱秀才 (Scholar Zhu; xiucaì is an obsolete form);

Luó gōngchéngshī 罗工程师 (Engineer Luo);

Fāng jìshùyuán 方技术员 (Technician Fang);

Máo èrxiǎojiě 毛二小姐 (Miss Mao, second daughter of the family);

Dīng fùzhǔrèn 丁副主任 (Assistant Director Ding).

Specific forms of address, in contrast to the general forms described above, can apply only to one person. These forms are reserved for historical figures and characters from classical novels; they generally consist of a general term of address which has become fixed in connection to a certain person over time. As

with general forms of address, surname or given name and form of address are written separately; unlike general forms, both parts should be capitalized. Some examples follow:

- \* Kǒng Zǐ 孔子 (Zǐ = master, refers to Kǒng Qiū, Confucius);
- \* Mèng Zǐ 孟子 (refers to Mèng Kě, Mencius);
- Zhōu Gōng 周公 (Gōng = duke; refers to Jī Dàn of the Zhou dynasty);
- Táng Sēng 唐僧 (Sēng = monk; refers to Monk Tang Xuanzang of the Tang dynasty, also a character in *Journey to the West*);
- Dù Gōngbù 杜工部 (Gōngbù is an official title; refers to the Tang dynasty poet Dù Fǔ);
- Hóng Tiānwáng 洪天王 (Tiānwáng = “heavenly king”; title of Taiping Rebellion leader Hóng Xiùquán);
- Yáng Guìfēi 杨贵妃 (Guìfēi is a conferred title; refers to Tang dynasty imperial concubine Yáng Tàizhēn);
- Táng Tàizōng 唐太宗 (Tàizōng is an imperial title; refers to Tang dynasty emperor Lǐ Shīmín);
- Hàn Wǔdì 汉武帝 (Wǔdì is an imperial title; refers to Han dynasty emperor Liú Chè);
- Mèngcháng Jūn 孟尝君 (“The Gentleman of Mengchang”; refers to Tián Wén of the Warring States period);
- Huáiyīn Hóu 淮阴侯 (“Marquis of Huaiyin”; refers to Han dynasty general Hán Xīn);
- Xīchǔ Bāwáng 西楚霸王 (“The Feudal Lord of Western Chu”; refers to pre-Han general Xiàng Yǔ).

\* It should be noted, however, that these two names are conventionally written as single units: Kǒngzǐ, Mèngzǐ.

Sometimes it is necessary to look at context to determine whether a form of address is general or specific. Zǒnglǐ 总理 (premier), for example, is a general form, but in the excerpt below it acts as a specific form, referring uniquely to Premier Zhōu Enlái. In this context, zǒnglǐ, usually written with a lower-case “z,” must be capitalized:

...Zhè shí, Zǒnglǐ de sījī zǒuxià chē lí, zhàn zài wǒ shēnpáng wèn wǒ: “Tóngzhì, pèngzhe méiyǒu?” Wǒ gǎnmáng huídá: “Méi shìr! Méi shìr!” Yǒuguān rényuán xùnsù chákànle xiànchǎng, juéding liúxià líng yī liàng Hóngqí jiàochē sòng wǒ qù yīyuàn jiǎnchá, Zǒnglǐ de chē cí kāizǒu le.

.....这时, 总理的司机走下车来, 站在我身旁问我: “同志, 碰着没有?” 我赶忙回答: “没事儿! 没事儿!” 有关人员迅速察看了现场, 决定留下一辆“红旗”轿车送我去医院检查, 总理的车才开走了。

... Then the Premier’s driver got out of the car, stood at my side and asked, “Comrade, did we hit you?” I hurriedly replied, “It’s nothing, it’s nothing!” The concerned personnel quickly looked over the site and decided to leave a second Red Flag sedan behind to take me to the hospital to be examined. Only then did the Premier’s car drive off. (from “Yī Jiàn Zhēnguì de Chènshān” 一件珍贵的衬衫, “A Precious Shirt”)

One other extremely common form of address is a prefix ad-

ded onto a surname or given name. Such prefixes are capitalized in writing and written separately from the surname or given name they precede. The most commonly used prefixes of this sort are *lǎo* 老, *xiǎo* 小, and *ā* 阿. Their usage is explained below.

**Lǎo** 老 (old): Used in combination with a surname, e.g. *Lǎo Wáng* 老王, *Lǎo Lǐ* 老李. Used in addressing middle-aged or older persons. It is used more frequently in addressing men than towards women, being applied only to women beyond middle age. *Lǎo* cannot be used in conjunction with two-syllable surnames such as *Ōuyáng* 欧阳.

**Xiǎo** 小 (little): Used in combination with a surname, e.g. *Xiǎo Zhōu* 小周, *Xiǎo Féng* 小冯. Used in addressing young persons of either sex. *Xiǎo* carries overtones of affection.

**Ā** 阿: Used in combination with a surname, given name, or term indicating seniority within a family, e.g. *Ā Xiāng* 阿香, *Ā Guì* 阿贵 (*Xiāng* and *Guì* are given names); *Ā Sān* 阿三 (*Sān* = three; “third eldest”). *A* is an affectionate form of address.

## 2.4 Transliteration of Foreign Place Names and Personal Names

The preceding two sections have discussed the writing of Han Chinese place name and personal names. This section deals with those place names and personal names originating in other languages, including those languages spoken by ethnic minorities inside China.

A small number of foreign names are translated into Putonghua according to meaning, or a combination of meaning and pronunciation; the great majority are transliterated; i.e. trans-

lated according to pronunciation. It is worthwhile to look at just how they are transliterated. In most modern Chinese literary publications, foreign names are transliterated into Chinese characters: Shakespeare becomes 莎士比亚 (Shāshìbǐyà), Paris becomes 巴黎 (Bālí), and Washington becomes 华盛顿 (Huáshèngdùn). If just the HP of the transliterated characters is written out, in what is called “character notation,” we are left with “Shāshìbǐyà,” “Bālí,” and “Huáshèngdùn.” Character notation is deceptive, because although the transliterations are written out in Latin alphabet letters, they have no direct connection to their forms in the language of origin. Another disadvantage of transliterating according to characters is that variant transliterations of names arise; sometimes as many as four different transliterations of a foreign name will coexist. The name of the former U.S. president Ronald Reagan is transliterated 里根 (Lǐgēn) by some and 雷根 (Léigēn) by others; the name of the English physicist Isaac Newton is transliterated 牛顿 (Niútdùn) by some and 奈端 (Nàiduān) by others; the name of the French author Victor Hugo is sometimes rendered 雨果 (Yǔguǒ) and sometimes 聶俄 (Xiǎo'é). While it is usually possible to unify the character transliteration of the most famous personal and place names, there is simply no set method for dealing with names of little-known or newly famous persons or places. Unification is extremely difficult in these cases. Clearly, there are serious drawbacks to transliterating foreign names according to Chinese characters.

For writing foreign place names and personal names, HP orthography adopts the principle of following the original, that is, of taking the original romanization as the standard written form.

(This is the same principle of romanization used by the UN's Conference on Standardization of Place Names.) By this principle, any foreign name will have only one written form in HP: the romanization used in its language of origin. Foreign names may be divided into three types for consideration, according to their original written forms.

1) Names originally written in the Latin Alphabet—English, French, and German names, for example. These are written just as they are in the language of origin. However, since many Latin-alphabet writing systems use various diacritical marks which do not exist in HP, we find it more practical to write names containing such diacriticals as they are rendered in English, thus:

#### **Place Names**

London (English) 伦敦

New York (American) 纽约

Paris (French) 巴黎

Berlin (German) 柏林

Madrid (Spanish) 马德里

Roma (Italian) 罗马

Vienna (Austrian) 维也纳

Manila (Filipino) 马尼拉

Ottawa (Canadian) 渥太华

Mexico (Mexican) 墨西哥

#### **Personal names**

Darwin (English) 达尔文

Balzac (French) 巴尔扎克

Einstein (German) 爱因斯坦

Marx (German) 马克思

Goethe (German) 歌德

Dante (Italian) 但丁

Cervantes (Spanish) 塞万提斯

Lincoln (American) 林肯

2) Names originally written in alphabets other than the Latin

alphabet—Russian, Japanese, Arabic, Tibetan, and Thai names, for example. These are written according to the standardized Latin alphabet transcriptions of their languages, thus:

**Place names**

Moskva (Russian) 莫斯科	Leningrad (Russian) 列宁格勒
Tokyo (Japanese) 东京	Osaka (Japanese) 大阪
Riyadh (Arabic) 利雅得	Pyongyang (Korean) 平壤
Bangkok (Thai) 曼谷	Lhasa (Tibetan) 拉萨
Urümqi (Uygur) 乌鲁木齐	Bayan Obo (Mongolian) 白云鄂博

**Personal names**

Gogol (Russian) 果戈里	Pushkin (Russian) 普希金
Yamamoto (Japanese) 山本	Suzuki (Japanese) 铃木
Muhammad (Arabic) 穆罕默德	Hassan (Arabic) 哈桑
Kim (Korean) 金	Pak (Korean) 朴
Ulanhu (Mongolian) 乌兰夫	Seypidin (Uygur) 赛福鼎
Ngapoi Ngawang Jigme (Tibetan) 阿沛·阿旺晋美	

Note: Transcriptions of place names and personal names of ethnic minorities in China are made according to Shǎoshù Míngzúyǔ Dì míng Hànyǔ Pīnyīn Zìmǔ Yīnyì Zhuǎnxiěfǎ (Hanyu Pinyin Transliteration Method for Minority Language Place Names; Zhōnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó Guójiā Cèhuì Zǒngjú and Zhōngguó Wénzì Gǎigé Wěiyuánhuì, 1976).

3) Names which have been translated partially or wholly ac-



ording to meaning and are thus Chinese in form. Most names of this type are early borrowings into Chinese. It is best simply to transcribe these according to Chinese characters, thus:

**Continents**(zhōu = continent):

Yàzhōu 亚洲 (Asia; sound + meaning translation);

Ōuzhōu 欧洲 (Europe; sound + meaning translation);

Fēizhōu 非洲 (Africa; sound + meaning translation).

**Countries** (guó = country):

Měiguó 美国 (United States of America; sound + meaning translation);

Yīngguó 英国 (England; sound + meaning translation);

Fǎguó 法国 (France; sound + meaning translation);

Déguó 德国 (Germany (Deutschland); sound + meaning translation);

Sōlián 苏联 (Soviet Union, lian is short for lianmeng 联盟 = union; sound + meaning translation);

Tàiguó 泰国 (Thailand; sound + meaning translation);

Rìběn 日本 (Japan; archaic transliteration).

**Cities**

Jiànqiáo 剑桥 (Cambridge; sound + meaning translation (qiáo = bridge));

Niújīn 牛津 (Oxford; pure meaning translation(niú = ox, jīn = ford));

Fèichéng 费城 (Philadelphia; sound + meaning translation (chéng = city));

Jiùjīnshān 旧金山 (Chinese name for San Francisco; pure meaning construction (jiù = old, jīn = gold, shān = moun-

tain));

Tánxiāngshān 檀香山 (Chinese name for Honolulu; pure meaning construction (tánxiāng = sandalwood, shān = mountain)).

**Personal names**

Shāwēng 莎翁 (Shakespeare; sound + meaning translation (wēng = old man)).

These Chinese-form foreign names may be used interchangeably with their original-language equivalents. Tánxiāngshān and Honolulu, Shāwēng and Shakespeare.

It may be seen that the most advantageous method for dealing with names of foreign origin is to follow the original and use the original form or its Latin-alphabet equivalent. Unfortunately, this method presents great difficulties to Chinese readers unfamiliar with foreign languages, particularly to elementary school students. Thus the principle of following the original can only be adopted into use gradually. For the present, there are certain accommodative methods that can be brought into use.

It is entirely feasible to use the original forms of foreign names in academic writings of specialized nature. This method has already been used in Chinese publications, and has met with a favorable reception from readers. The Chinese translation of Morris Kline's four volume *Mathematical Thought from Ancient to Modern Times* (1972) uses this method.

In ordinary publications, it is feasible to use the original form of foreign names and to add Chinese characters or character

notations in parentheses, as:

Paris (巴黎) or Paris (Bǎilǐ);

Dante (但丁) or Dante (Dàndīng);

The opposite ordering may be more convenient for use in primary and secondary school textbooks and certain other publications:

巴黎 (Paris) or Bǎilǐ (Paris);

但丁 (Dante) or Dàndīng (Dante).

## 2.5 Other Proper Nouns

Place names and personal names account for the majority of proper nouns. All other proper nouns and noun phrases follow the same general rule of capitalization in writing as those we have already discussed. The various other types of proper nouns are introduced individually here.

### 1) Names of nationalities

China has fifty-six nationalities, or ethnic groups, living within its borders. Most of these are represented by their Putonghua names, while a small number are represented by names from their own languages. For reference purposes, the names of the fifty-six nationalities and their abbreviated forms are given here. (Source: Zhōngguó Gè Mínzú Míngchēng de Luómǎ Zìmǔ Pīnxiěfǎ hé Dìimǎ (*Names of Nationalities of China in Romanization with Codes*), Zhōnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó Guójia Biāozhǔn, 1972; GB 3304-82.)

Chinese Romanization: Pronunciation and Orthography

Written form	(Abbreviation)	Chinese characters
Achang	(AC)	阿昌族
Bai	(BA)	白族
Benglong	(BE)	崩龙族
Blang	(BL)	布朗族
Bonan	(BN)	保安族
Bouyi	(BY)	布依族
Chaoxian	(CX)	朝鲜族
Dai	(DA)	傣族
Daur	(DU)	达斡尔族
Derung	(DR)	独龙族
Dongxiang	(DX)	东乡族
Dong	(DO)	侗族
Ewenki	(EW)	鄂温克族
Gaoshan	(GS)	高山族
Gelao	(GL)	仡佬族
Gin	(GI)	京族
Han	(HA)	汉族
Hani	(HN)	哈尼族
Hezhen	(HZ)	赫哲族
Hui	(HU)	回族

Chinese Romanization: Pronunciation and Orthography

Written form	(Abbreviation)	Chinese characters
Jingpo	(JP)	景颇族
Jino	(JN)	基诺族
Kazak	(KZ)	哈萨克族
Kirgiz	(KG)	柯尔克孜族
Lahu	(LH)	拉祜族
Lhoba	(LB)	珞巴族
Li	(LI)	黎族
Lisu	(LS)	傈僳族
Man	(MA)	满族
Maonan	(MN)	毛南族 (原名“毛难”)
Miao	(MI)	苗族
Monba	(MB)	门巴族
Mongol	(MG)	蒙古族
Mulam	(ML)	仫佬族
Naxi	(NX)	纳西族
Nu	(NU)	怒族
Oroqen.	(OR)	鄂伦春族
Primi	(PM)	普米族
Qiang	(QI)	羌族

Written form	(Abbreviation)	Chinese characters
Russ	(RS)	俄罗斯族
Salar	(SL)	撒拉族
She	(SH)	畲族
Sui	(SU)	水族
Tajik	(TA)	塔吉克族
Tatar	(TT)	塔塔尔族
Tu	(TU)	土族
Tujia	(TJ)	土家族
Uygur	(UG)	维吾尔族
Uzbek	(UZ)	乌孜别克族
Va	(VA)	佤族
Xibo	(XB)	锡伯族
Yao	(YA)	瑶族
Yi	(YI)	彝族
Yugur	(YG)	裕固族
Zang	(ZA)	藏族
Zhuang	(ZH)	壮族

Notes: The -zú 族 (nationality) that is usually suffixed to each of these names has here been omitted.

No tone markers have been used in these transcriptions, in

accordance with *Names of Nationalities of China in Romanization with Codes*.

## 2) Names of religions and deities

Names of religions are treated as proper nouns, according to international custom. -jìào 教 in the examples below means “religion.”

Fójiào 佛教 (Buddhism);      Dàojiào 道教 (Taoism);  
Jīdūjiào 基督教 (Christianity);      Tiānzhǔjiào 天主教 (Catholicism);  
Islāmjiào 伊斯兰教 (Islam, sometimes also called Huíjiào 回教).

Names of deities and spirits may be treated as personal names:

Yehowah 耶和華 (Jehovah);  
Sakya Muni 釋迦牟尼 (Sakyamuni);  
Guānyīn Púsa 觀音菩薩 (the Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara);  
Tuōtǎ Lǐ Tiānwáng 托塔李天王 (the Pagoda-Bearing Heavenly King Li).

## 3) Names of dynasties

Names of dynasties are treated as proper nouns. The specific name of a dynasty is written as a single unit with the -cháo 朝 or -dài 代 (both meaning “dynasty”) that follows it.

Qíncháo 秦朝 or Qíndài 秦代 (Qin dynasty, 221–206

BC);

Hàncháo 汉朝 or Hàndài 汉代 (Han dynasty,  
206 BC–220 AD);

Tángcháo 唐朝 or Tángdài 唐代 (Tang dynasty,  
618–907 AD);

Sòngcháo 宋朝 or Sòngdài 宋代 (Song dynasty,  
960–1279 AD);

Yuáncháo 元朝 or Yuándài 元代 (Yuan dynasty,  
1206–1368 AD);

Míngcháo 明朝 or Míngdài 明代 (Ming dynasty,  
1368–1644 AD);

Qīngcháo 清朝 or Qīngdài 清代 (Qing dynasty,  
1616–1911 AD);

Dōnghàn 东汉 (the Eastern Han period);

Xīhàn 西汉 (the Western Han period);

Sānguó 三国 (the Three Kingdoms);

Wǔdài 五代 (the Five Dynasties);

Wèi-Jīn 魏晋 (the Wei-Jin period);

Nán-Běicháo 南北朝 (the Northern and Southern dynas-  
ties);

Kǒngquè Wángcháo 孔雀王朝 (India's Maurya or Mogul  
dynasty);

Bourbon Wángcháo 波旁王朝 (France's Bourbon dynasty).

Important historical periods and events are also treated as  
proper names:

Shíqì Shídài 石器时代 (the Stone Age);

Qīngtóng Shídài 青铜时代 (the Bronze Age);



Hēi'ān Shíqī 黑暗时期 (the Dark Ages);  
Wényì Fùxīng 文艺复兴 (the Renaissance);  
Xīnhài Gémìng 辛亥革命 (the Xinhai Revolution, 1911);  
Wǔ-sì Yùndòng 五四运动 (the May Fourth Movement,  
1919);  
Xī'ān Shìbiàn 西安事变 (the Xi'an Incident, 1936);  
Wénhuà Dàgémìng 文化大革命 (the Cultural Revolution).

#### 4) Names of festivals

Names of festivals and holidays are treated as proper names.  
-jié 节 in the examples below means “festival” or “holiday.”

Shèngdànjié 圣诞节 (Christmas);  
Chūnjié 春节 (Spring Festival, or Chinese New Year);  
Yuánxiāojié 元宵节 (Lantern Festival);  
Láodòngjié 劳动节 (International Labor Day);  
Pōshuǐjié 泼水节 (Water-Sprinkling Festival);  
Kurbānjié 古尔邦节 (Corban Festival).

#### 5) Names of celestial bodies

Apart from the common nouns tàiyáng 太阳 (sun), yuèliang 月亮 (moon), and dìqiú 地球 (Earth), the names of all stars, planets and celestial bodies are considered proper nouns, and should be capitalized in writing. In the examples below, -xīng 星 means “star” or “planet,” and -zuò 座 means “constellation.”

Shuǐxīng 水星 (Mercury);	Jīnxīng 金星 (Venus);
Huǒxīng 火星 (Mars);	Mùxīng 木星 (Jupiter);
Tǔxīng 土星 (Saturn);	Tiānwángxīng 天王星 (Uranus);
Hǎiwángxīng 海王星	Míngwángxīng 冥王星

(Neptune);	(Pluto);
Lièrénguò 猎星座 (Orion);	Xiānhòuzuò 仙后座 (Cassiopeia);
Fēimǎzuò 飞马座 (Pegasus);	Dàxióngzuò 大熊座 (Ursa Major);
Shīzizuò 狮子座 (Leo);	Tiān'ézuzuò 天鹅座 (Cygnus);
Běijíxīng 北极星 (Polaris);	Běidǒuxīng 北斗星 (the Big Dipper);
Niúlongxīng 牛郎星 (the Cowherd(Altair));	
Zhīnǚxīng 织女星 (the Weaver Girl (Vega)).	

#### 6) Names of languages

Names of languages are treated as proper nouns. -huà 话 and -yǔ 语 in the examples below both mean “language.”

Hànyǔ 汉语, Huáyǔ 华语, Zhōngguóhuà 中国话,  
Zhōngguóyǔ 中国语 (different names for Chinese);  
Yīngyǔ 英语 (English); Rìyǔ 日语 (Japanese);  
Mǎnyǔ 满语 (Manchurian); Guǎngdōnghuà 广东话  
(Cantonese).

Names of this sort that are four or more syllables in length, and of which the final two syllables form an independent word, are written as phrases:

Zhōngguó yǔyán 中国语言 (Chinese language);  
Fújiàn fāngyán 福建方言 (Fujian dialect).

Names of languages appearing in a series are linked by a hy-

phen:

Hàn-Zàng yǔxì 汉藏语系 (the Sino-Tibetan languages family);

Yīng-Hàn Cídiǎn 英汉词典 (*The English-Chinese Dictionary*).

The word hànzi 汉字 (Chinese characters), it should be noted, is treated as a common rather than a proper noun. It is written with a lower-case "h."

### 7) Titles of literary and artistic works

Names of artistic and literary endeavors are considered proper nouns or noun phrases and are always capitalized. The word "works" as used here encompasses a broad range of human endeavor, including books, stories, movies, television programs, musical words, plays, operas, paintings, statues, etc., as well as political and scientific writings.

Books and their titles may be divided into two sorts, modern and classical. Titles of modern books are usually vernacular in form and may be analyzed into individual words; in writing, each word is capitalized. Some examples:

Jiā 家 (*Family*, Bā Jīn);

Nǚshén 女神 (*Goddess*, Guō Mòruó);

Dàoctorén 稻草人 (*Scarecrow*, Yè Shèntáo);

Luòtuó Xiàngzi 骆驼祥子 (*Camel Xiangzi*, Lǎo Shè);

Kuángren Rìjì 狂人日记 (*Diary of a Madman*, Lǚ Xùn);

Línjiā Pùzi 林家铺子 (*The Lin Family Store*, Máo Dùn);

Jì Xiǎo Dúzhě 寄小读者 (*For Young Readers*, Bingxin);

Tàiyáng Zhào zài Sāngān Hé shàng 太阳照在桑干河上  
(*The Sun Shines on the Sanggan River*, Ding Ling);

Dāngqián Wénzì Gǎigé de Rènwù 当前文字改革的任务  
(*The Tasks of Writing Reform at Present*, Zhōu Ēnlái);

Dìzhì Lìxué Gāilùn 地质力学概论 (*An Introduction to  
Geomechanics*, Li Siguāng).

Note in the examples above that certain function words, such as prepositions (e.g. zài 在 (at)), conjunctions (e.g. hé 和 (and)), particles (e.g. de 的, 地, 得, which relates two words to each other), and words indicating location (e.g. shàng 上 (on)), are not capitalized. For the use and writing of function words, refer to the appropriate chapters following.

Names of classical writings are written in classical Chinese. If classical Chinese phrases and titles are broken down into individual words, the result is most often a string of monosyllables, for classical Chinese tends toward monosyllabism far more strongly than modern Chinese does. A string of single syllables in writing is generally difficult to interpret, and HP tries to avoid this phenomenon for that reason. It is preferable, therefore, to write classical titles just as they are read, and more or less according to words.

Titles of two syllables are generally written as a single unit.

Shijing 诗经 (*The Book of Odes*);

Chǔcí 楚辞 (*The Songs of Chu*);

Lúnyǔ 论语 (*The Analects*);

Chūnqiū 春秋 (*The Spring and Autumn Annals*);

Shǐjì 史记 (*Records of the Historian*);

Hànshū 汉书 (*History of the Han Dynasty*).

Titles which are clearly verb-object constructions in form, however, are written as two units, as: Shuō Táng 说唐 (*Speaking of the Tang Dynasty*), Zhēng Dōng 征东 (*Journey to the East*).

Titles of three syllables are most commonly of the form 2 + 1, where 2 is a specific name and 1 represents a genre of writing—Jì 记 (story, record), Zhuàn 传 (historical novel), Lù 录 (record), Gē 歌 (song), Lùn 论 (essay), etc. Titles of this sort, as well as all other titles that can be divided into 2 and 1 syllables, should be written accordingly. Some examples follow:

Xīyóu Jì 西游记 (*Journey to the West*);

Sòushén Jì 搜神记 (*Records of Spirits*);

Shuǐhǔ Zhuàn 水浒传 (*Outlaws of the Marsh*);

Xuánguài Lù 玄怪录 (*Accounts of Mysteries and Monsters*);

Chángèn Gē 长恨歌 (*Song of Eternal Sorrow*);

Chìbì Fù 赤壁赋 (*Prose Poem of the Red Cliff*);

Pípa Xíng 琵琶行 (*Song of the Pipa*);

Shānhǎi Jīng 山海经 (*The Classic of Mountains and Seas*);

Hónglóu Mèng 红楼梦 (*A Dream of Red Mansions*);

Jǐnghuā Yuán 镜花缘 (*Flowers in the Mirror*);

Táohuā Shàn 桃花扇 (*The Peach Blossom Fan*);

Mǔdān Tíng 牡丹亭 (*The Peony Pavilion*).

Titles of four syllables are most commonly 2 + 2 in form. All titles that can be broken down into 2 and 2 should be written accordingly:

- Sānguó Yǎnyì 三国演义 (*Romance of the Three Kingdoms*);  
Suí-Táng Yǎnyì 隋唐演义 (*Romance of Sui and Tang*);  
Liáozhāi Zhìyì 聊斋志异 (*Strange Tales from a Chinese Studio*);  
Rúlín Wàishǐ 儒林外史 (*The Scholars: An Unofficial Account*);  
Jìngshì Tōngyán 警世通言 (*Stories to Warn Men*);  
Běncǎo Gāngmù 本草纲目 (*Compendium of Materia Medica*);  
Mèngxī Bǐtán 梦溪笔谈 (*Notes from Mengxi*);  
Qímín Yàoshù 齐民要术 (*Important Arts for the People's Welfare*).

Titles of five or more syllables are divided into individual words according to the principles outlined above:

- Èrnǚ Yīngxióng Zhuàn 儿女英雄传 (*Tales of Love and Heroism*);  
Dōngzhōu Lièguó Zhì 东周列国志 (*Record of the States of the Eastern Zhou*);  
Kǒngquè Dōngnán Fēi 孔雀东南飞 (*The Peacock Flies Southeast*);  
Yuèwēi Cǎotáng Bǐjì 阅微草堂笔记 (*Notes from Yuewei*)

*Cottage*).

### 8) Titles of newspapers and magazines

These, like book titles, are divided up according to words, with each word capitalized. Bào 报 in the examples below means “newspaper.”

Shēn Bào 申报 (*Shanghai News*; Shen = Shanghai);

Wénhù Bào 文汇报 (*Wenhui News*);

Běijīng Wǎnbào 北京晚报 (*Beijing Evening Daily*);

Zhōngguó Qīngnián Bào 中国青年报 (*China Youth News*);

Hànyǔ Pīnyīn Bào 汉语拼音报 (*Hanyu Pinyin News*);

Rénmín Wénxué 人民文学 (*People's Literature*);

Dàzhòng Diànyǐng 大众电影 (*Movies for the Masses*);

Wùlǐ Xuéào 物理学报 (*Journal of Physics*);

Bā Xiǎoshí zhī Wài 八小时之外 (*After Work*).

### 9) Names of social units

Social units include political parties and groups, organizations, administrative bodies, armed forces, factories, stores, hospitals, schools, etc. Names of all such units are treated as proper nouns, divided into component words and capitalized. Some examples follow:

Zhōngguó Gòngchǎndǎng 中国共产党 (The Communist Party of China);

Zhōngguó Rénmín Jiěfàngjūn 中国人民解放军 (The Chinese People's Liberation Army);

Jiǔ-Sān Xuéshè 九三学社 (September Third Academic So-

'ciety);

Běijīng Shì Yǔyán Xuéhuì 北京市语言学会 (Beijing Society of Linguistics);

Zhōngguó Shèhuì Kēxuéyuàn 中国社会科学院 (China Academy of Social Sciences);

Zhōnghuá Quánguó Zǒnggōnghuì 中华全国总工会 (All-China Federation of Trade Unions);

Sìchuān Shěng Jiàoyù Wěiyuánhuì 四川省教育委员会 (Sichuan Province Committee on Education);

Zhōngguó Yǒusè Jīnshǔ Zǒnggōngsī 中国有色金属总公司 (China Non-Ferrous Metals Corporation);

Chángchūn Tuōlājī Zhìzàochǎng 长春拖拉机制造厂 (Changchun Tractor Factory);

Běijīng Shì Bǎihuò Dàlóu 北京市百货大楼 (Beijing Department Store);

Míngxīng Diànyǐngyuàn 明星电影院 (Mingxing Cinema);

Héping Bīnguǎn 和平宾馆 (Peace Hotel);

Tóngrén Yīyuàn 同仁医院 (Tongren Hospital);

Huádōng Shīfàn Dàxué 华东师范大学 (Huadong Teacher's College);

Zhōngguó Qīngnián Chūbǎnshè 中国青年出版社 (China Youth Press);

Shāngwù Yīnshūguǎn 商务印书馆 (The Commercial Press).

Certain privately owned stores and restaurants take several otherwise unconnected characters as their names. These disconnected syllables should be written as one unit, thus:



Quánjùdé Kǎoyādiàn 全聚德烤鸭店  
(Quanjude Roast Duck Restaurant);

Hòudéfù Càiguǎn 厚德富菜馆  
(Houdefu Restaurant);

Lìlì Cāntīng 力力餐厅  
(Lili Restaurant).

### 10) Trademarks

Most Chinese trademarks do not exceed three syllables in length. Regardless of their internal construction, these names are always written as one unit. The word *pái* 牌 (brand) that always follows a trademark name is written separately from the name itself, and capitalized. Some examples follow:

Yàn Pái 燕牌 (Swallow Brand);

Hǔ Pái 虎牌 (Tiger Brand);

Shuāngxǐ Pái 双喜牌 (Double Happiness Brand);

Xuěhuā Pái 雪花牌 (Snowflake Brand);

Qīngchūnbǎo Pái 青春宝牌 (Treasure of Youth Brand).

Names of ships are similar in form to trademarks, and are treated in the same manner. *Hào* 号 in the examples below is a word suffix used with ship names.

Zhōngshān Jiàn 中山舰 (Naval Vessel Zhongshan);

Mínshēng Lún 民生轮 (Steamship Minsheng);

Zhìyuǎn Hào 志远号 (Zhiyuan);

Chánghóng Hào 长虹号 (Changhong).

## 2.6 Proper Nouns in Combination with Common Nouns

The combination of proper nouns with common nouns, a not unusual phenomenon in Putonghua, produces a common nouns. The proper noun Zhōngguó 中国 (China), for example, combined with the common noun rén 人 (person) produces a common noun meaning “Chinese person” (see following paragraph for its written form). It is sometimes allowable to use only a portion of a noun when combining it with other nouns: the common noun meaning “Peking opera” takes only one syllable, jīng, 京 from the proper noun Běijīng 北京 (Peking) and one syllable, jù, 剧 from the common noun xìjù 戏剧 (drama, play). Common nouns that contain proper-noun elements are somewhat different in nature from other common nouns. The question we must deal with first it, should these special common nouns be capitalized in writing or not?

The customary method of writing such common nouns in HP is to capitalize their first letter. Thus Zhōngguó 中国 (China) + rén 人 (person) produces Zhōngguórén 中国人 (Chinese person). This method has the advantage of preserving the original capitalized form of Zhōngguó in a construction where it stands alone, such as Zhōngguó rénmin 中国人民 (the Chinese people). This advantage is lost if we write “Chinese person” without the capital—Zhōngguórén.

Similarly, all nouns of this type which incorporate only a portion or short form of a proper noun are capitalized in writing. Some examples follow:

1 + 1

- Jīngjù 京剧 (Peking opera; Jīng is a short form for Běijīng);  
Qínqǎng 秦腔 (Shaanxi opera; Qín is an alternate form for Shaanxi);  
Chuāncài 川菜 (Sichuan cookery; Chuān is a short form for Sīchuān);  
Yúnyān 云烟 (Yunnan cigarettes; Yún is a short form for Yúnnán);  
Sūxiù 苏绣 (Suzhou embroidery; Sū is a short form for Sūzhōu);  
Huáqiáo 华侨 (overseas Chinese; Huá is a short form for Zhōnghuá (China));  
Měiyuán 美元 (U.S. dollars; Měi is a short form for Měiguó(U.S.A.));  
Rìhuò 日货 (Japanese goods; Rì is a short form for Rìběn(Japan)).

2 + 1

- Zhèjiāngrén 浙江人 (person from Zhejiang, a Chinese province);  
Huángmèixì 黄梅戏 (Huangmei opera; Huángmèi is a Chinese county);  
Shào-xīngjiǔ 绍兴酒 (Shaoxing wine; Shào-xīng is a town in Zhèjiāng);  
Guǎngdōngwèi 广东味 (Cantonese cookery);  
Ruìshìbiǎo 瑞士表 (Swiss watch; Ruìshì 瑞士 (Swiss) is two syllables).

2 + 2

Zhōngguó chá yè 中国茶叶 (Chinese tea);

Shào xīng lǎo jiǔ 绍兴老酒 (Shaoxing wine);

Guǎng dōng fēng wèi 广东风味 (Cantonese cookery);

Ruì shì shǒu biǎo 瑞士手表 (Swiss watch).

Combinations of proper and common nouns sometimes lose their proper or specific meaning over time. This means that people cease to think of the proper-noun component of the word as such when they use it. Such nouns should not be capitalized. (Most of these words may be found in the dictionary.) A few examples follow:

zhōng yī 中医 (Chinese medicine; zhōng = Zhōngguó 中国 China);

xī yī 西医 (Western medicine; xī = the West);

chuān xiōng 川芎 (a type of Chinese medicine originally made in Sì chuān (Chuān));

guǎng gān 广柑 (a type of orange grown in Guǎng dōng (Guǎng));

zàng hóng huā 藏红花 (an ingredient of Chinese medicine originally imported from Tibet (Xī zàng, or Zàng));

zhōng shān zhuāng 中山装 (“Mao suit”; originally named for Sūn Zhōng shān (Sun Yat-sen)).

The above are typical examples of proper noun-common noun combinations that produce common nouns. There are also certain proper nouns with no common-noun elements which

nonetheless act as common nouns. Among electrical terms, the following common nouns were originally names of noted scientists:

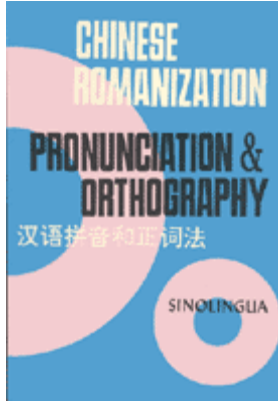
- ānpéi 安培 (ampere: measure of current intensity, named for French physicist André Ampère);
- ōumǔ 欧姆 (ohm: unit of resistance, named for German physicist Simon Ohm);
- kùlún 库伦 (coulomb: unit of electrical charge, named for French physicist Charles de Coulomb).

Terms such as these, since they act as common nouns, are not capitalized in writing. Those of foreign origin, like the examples here, are best written in their original form: “ampere” rather than “ānpéi,” “ohm” rather than oumu.”

### 3. Pronouns

#### 3.1 Personal pronouns

Personal pronouns are used to represent people, or occasionally inanimate objects; that have already appeared in discourse. In using personal pronouns one avoids the necessity of mentioning a person or object by name every time it appears in discourse. There are also certain other linguistic environments in which personal pronouns commonly appear. The personal pronouns of Putonghua are divided into singular and plural forms; the singular form uses the basic form of the pronoun, while the plural adds to the basic form the suffix -men 们. -men is always read in the neutral tone.



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Yīn Bīnyōng, *Hànyǔ Pīnyīn hé Zhèngcífǎ*

尹斌庸, 汉语拼音和正词法

尹斌庸, 漢語拼音和正詞法

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