jīqì (n) machine	diànshìjī (n) TV set	jiātíng (n) household
dàjiā(pro) everyone	liǎojiě (v) to understand	shìjiè (n) world
bǐjiào (v) to compare	yǒngjiǔ (v) eternal	jiànshè (v) to construct
jiǎngshī (n) lecturer	jīntiān (n) today	jìnlai (v) to come in
Beǐjīng (n) Beijing	tiānqì (n) weather	érqiě (conj) and, also
qiūtiān (n) autumn	qiánmiàn (n) front	qiángjiàn (a) robust
mǔqin (n) mother	fùqin (n) father	gǎnqíng (n) feelings
pínqióng (a) poor	dōngxi (n) thing	xiàtiān (n) summer
xiězì (v) to write	xiǎoshuō (n) fiction	xiūlǐ (v) to repair
xiànzài (ad) now	xiǎngxiàng (v) to imagine	xiāngxìn (v) to believe
xīngxing (n) star	xiōng'è (a) fierce	

12. 3 r— Suffixed Syllables

In Section 2.1 we introduced the retroflex vowel er. Certain words in Putonghua, most of them nouns, can take this retroflex

as a suffix. The addition of er to a word can indicate the small *size of* the object named, the speaker's affection or intimacy toward it, or a euphemistic tone. Phonetically, what happens when er becomes a suffix is that it drops its e and becomes simply r; this r is hooked onto a syllable of the word in question, which is then called an r–suffixed syllable. In this way huā (flower) plus er becomes huār, niǎo (bird) plus er becomes niǎor, and so on.

In writing, the r–suffix is indicated by simply adding an r onto the existing syllable, as can be seen in the left–hand column below. In speech, however, the addition of r causes all sorts of changes in pronunciation, different for each different syllable it hooks up with. See the list below for a detailed presentation of the pronunciation of each type of r–suffixed syllable.

Written form	*Actual pronunciation*
–ar (mǎr, horse)	–ar (mǎr)
–air (gàir, lid)	–ar (gàr)
–anr (pánr, plate)	–ar (pár)
–aor (bāor, bundle)	–aor (bāor)
–angr (gāngr, jar)	– ãr(gãr)
–or (mòr, dust)	–or (mòr)
–our (hóur, monkey)	–our (hóur)
–ongr (chóngr, insect)	– õr(chõr)
–er (gēr, song)	–er (gēr)
–eir (bèir, back)	–er (bèr)

—enr (ménr, door)	—er (mér)
—engr (dēngr, lamp)	— ẽr(dẽr)
—ir * (zìr, Chinese character)	—er (zèr)
—ir (mǐr, rice)	—ier (mǐer)
—iar (xiár, box)	—iar (xiár)
—ier (diér, saucer)	—ier (diér)
—iaor (niǎor, bird)	—iaor (niǎor)
—iur (qiúr, ball)	—iour (qióur)
—ianr (diǎnr, bit)	—iar (diǎr)
—iàngr (qiāngr, tune)	— iãr(qiãr)
—inr (xīnr, core)	—ier (xīer)
—ingr (língr, bell)	— iẽr(liẽr)
—iongr (xióngr, bear)	— iõr(xiõr)
—ur (tùr, rabbit)	—ur (tùr)
—uar (huār, flower)	—uar (huār)
—uor (huór, work)	—uor (huór)
—uair (kuàir, piece)	—uar (kuàr)
—uir (shuǐr, water)	—uer (shuěr)
—uanr (wánr, to play)	—uar (wár)
—uangr (kuāngr, basket)	—uãr(kuãr)
—unr (lúnr, wheel)	—uer (luér)
—ũr (qǔr, song)	—ũer (qǔer)

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−üer (juér, peg)	−üer (juér)
−üanr (quānr, loop)	−üar (quār)
−ünr (qúnr, skirt)	−üer (qúer)

Notes:

a. ã, õ, ẽ indicate nasalized a, o, e.

b. The −i marked with an asterisk indicates either of the apical vowels that follow zh, ch, sh, r and z, c, s.

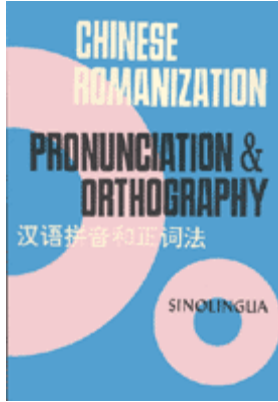c. See the following section for the pronuciations of ü, üe, üan, and ün.

13. Vowel Constructions with ü:
üe, üan, and ün

13. 1 Pronunciation

There are three vowel constuctions in Putonghua that begin with ü: one all−vowel construction, üe, and the two vowel−nasal constrcutions üan and ün. Their pronunciations are discussed below.

üe   First form the simple vowel ü, and then add e onto it. This e, however, is not the simple vowel we encountered early on; it is the same e as that of −ie in Section 11.1, similar to the "e" of English "bed". e is the main vowel of üe, and carries the tone marker. Practice reading: üē, üé, üě, üè.

üan   First form ü, and then add onto it the nasal construc-

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