Unit 0: Sounds and Symbols

Exercise 1
Place the tone marks provided over the correct letter of the pinyin representations:

xiè   jiǎng   duì   hǎo   liǎn   guì   zhōu   qiáo

Exercise 2

A listening exercise that follows the material in the book; see Audioclip #3

Tā xìng Zhāng.   His/her surname's Zhang. And so on.

Exercise 3

Rows 3, 4 and 5 of the initial chart. This exercise can be heard on Audioclip #4   Below, the syllables in which 'i' is pronounced 'ee' are written larger and in bold:

qī   sǐ   zhī   zì   **jī**   **qī**   sì   rì   chī

xī   shì   cì   zhǐ   **qí**   sī   chǐ   **jí**   **xí**

Cí **Xì**   **Qí** Báishí   Lǐ Shízhēn **Qí**zhōu   Zhāng Zǐ**yí**

Exercise 4

The vowels i̱ and u̱. This exercise can be heard on Audioclip #7. In the following rendition of the syllables in the exercise, those with row #5 initials (and pronounced 'ee' or 'yu') are written larger and bold:

chi   **qi**   **xie**   **qu**   chu   chun   **jia**   **qin**   cu   **qu**   shun

qun   shu   **ju**   ci   **xu**   zi   zhu   shi   **xi**   **xia**   **qu**

Exercise 5

Written 'e'. This exercise can be heard on Audioclip # 7.

Exercise 6

The 'o' rhymes: This exercise can be heard on Audioclip #7. Part (b) is reproduced below, with the OU (oh!) rhymes written large and bold:

mōu tuō bō fó **zhōu** duō pò **dōu** zuò **fǒu** luó **ròu**

Exercise 7

Formula for all possible pinyin syllables; list the medials; list the finals:

$$C_i \, M \, \underline{\overset{T}{V}} \, E$$

Medials: i,u,ü
Finals: i,o, n,ng   (but o+o>ou)

Add tone marks:

xué   bēi   sōu   jiè   bié   suǒ

The 12 surnames:

Zhōu	Wáng	Lǐ	Wèi
Zhāng	Máo	Kǒng	Dù
Gāo	Chén	Mǎ	Zhào

Table of initial consonants:

bo	po	mo	fo	a) 6 rows
de	te	ne	le	b) rows 3, 4, 5 are the ones to watch
zi	ci	si		c) row 5 initials followed by 'ee' or 'yu' sounds
zhi	chi	shi	ri	d) row 5 'ee' is written 'i'; 'yu' is written 'u'
ji	qi	xi		
ge	ke	he		

Pronunciation on the four tones. Cf. Audioclip #8

Pronunciation of personal and place names: Cf. Audioclip #8

Applying the tone change rule:

hén lěng	bù gāo	láobǎn	bú guì	láo Lǐ	yì běn
bù hǎo	yúsǎn	bú duì	ní hǎo	bú cuò	yí fèn

Read the tone sets: lá wéi jìn, etc. Cf. Audioclip #8.