

Hakka belongs to the Sinitic branch of the Sino-Tibetan family. Hakka dialects spoken in the more concentrated areas can be divided into eight subgroups, three of which are found in Guangdong, one in Guangdong and Taiwan, one in Fujian, one in Jiangxi, and two across Jiangxi and Hunan. The total number of Hakka speakers in China according to the 1982 census is 35 million.

Standard Hakka is known as "Meixian Hakka", however, what is presented here is "Longmen Hakka", a dialect spoken in Eastern Guangdong. The speaker is male and approximately 50 years old.

Hakka Initial Consonants:

Stops:	p	t	k	(ʔ)
	p <sup>h</sup>	t <sup>h</sup>	k <sup>h</sup>	
Fricatives	f	s		h
Africates		ts		
		ts <sup>h</sup>		
Liquids		l		
Nasals	m	n	ɲ	ŋ
Glides			j	w

Hakka Final Consonants:

Stops	p	t	k
Nasals	m	ɲ	ŋ

Hakka Vowels:

i		u
		(u)
e	ɔ	o
ɛ		ɔ
æ	a	ɑ

Hakka Tones:

There are eight tonal categories in the traditional Chinese tonal system, however, in Hakka, the fourth and sixth tones merged with the third and fifth respectively, leaving Hakka with only six. These tones are described using a scale of one to five, representing the relative tonal levels of the human voice; one being the lowest, and five the highest. The tones then, are represented by numbers marking the relative pitches of their beginning, end, and if necessary, intermediate points. Thus the Hakka tones are:

1. Yin Ping - 44
2. Yang Ping - 11
3. Shang - 31

5. Chu - 52 or 42  
7. Yin Ru - 21  
8. Yang Ru - 4 or 5

The *cardinal* value of the tones is indicated after the transcriptions.

1.	[p] vs [p <sup>h</sup> ]	[p <sup>h</sup> i] 5	'nose'
2.		[pi] 5	'numbness'
3.		[p <sup>h</sup> a] 3	'afraid'
4.		[pa] 3	'save'
5.		[pa] 2	'broadcast'
6.		[p <sup>h</sup> a] 2	'broken'
7.		[pən] 3	'ice'
8.		[p <sup>h</sup> ən] 3	'times'
9.	[t] vs [t <sup>h</sup> ]	[t <sup>h</sup> un] 2	'swallow down'
10.		[tun] 1	'honest'
11.		[t <sup>h</sup> u] 1	'rabbit'
12.		[tu] 1	'will'
13.		[toŋ] 3	'cold'
14.		[t <sup>h</sup> oŋ] 3	'pain'
15.		[tæp] 1	'answer'
16.		[t <sup>h</sup> æp] 1	'fell down'
17.	[ts] vs [ts <sup>h</sup> ]	[ts <sup>h</sup> aj] 5	'again'
18.		[tsaj] 5	'at'
19.		[ts <sup>h</sup> an] 3	'meal'
20.		[tsan] 3	'specialist'
21.		[tsaw] 3	'morning'
22.		[ts <sup>h</sup> aw] 3	'grass'
23.		[tsa] 5	'work'
24.		[ts <sup>h</sup> a] 5	'mistake'
25.	[k] vs [k <sup>h</sup> ]	[k <sup>h</sup> aj] 5	'tired'
26.		[kaj] 5	'lid'
27.		[ka] 1	'elder brother'
28.		[fa] 1	'chemistry'
29.		[kətʔ] 5	'country'
30.		[k <sup>h</sup> ətʔ] 5	'decide'
31.		[k <sup>h</sup> oŋ] 3	'space'
32.		[koŋ] 3	'job'
33.	nasals	[ma] 2	'horse'
34.		[na] 2	'take'
35.		[nən] 2	'able'
36.		[mən] 2	'cotton'
37.		[mi] 2	'maze'
38.		[ni] 2	'nun'
39.		[min] 2	'sleep'
40.		[lin] 5	'command'
41.		[naj] 2	'mud'
42.		[nəj] 2	'cliff'

43.		[ɲen] 2	'year'
44.		[nen] 2	'able'
45.	[f]	[fɔŋ] 5	'wind'
46.		[faŋ] 5	'square'
47.		[fiw] 3	'float'
48.		[fæpʔ] 3	'law'
49.		[fæt] 3	'rich'
50.		[fæt] 5	'punish'
51.	[s]	[san] 2	'hill'
52.		[sam] 2	'three'
53.		[saj] 2	'birth'
54.		[sin] 2	'body'
55.		[sim] 2	'heart'
56.	[h]	[ha] 5	'summer'
57.		[he] 5	'is'
58.	[l]	[lɔŋ] 1	'deaf'
59.		[lam] 1	'basket'
60.	[j]	[jam] 2	'cover'
61.		[jen] 2	'smoke'
62.		[jin] 2	'because'
63.	finals	[tʰɛp] 3	'stick'
64.		[tɛm] 2	'point'
65.		[tɔp] 2	'answer'
66.		[tam] 2	'gall bladder'
67.		[fun] 5	'waste'
68.		[fut] 5	'Buddha'
69.		[pun] 3	'origin'
70.		[put] 2	'no'
71.		[tʰoŋ] 3	'pain'
72.		[tʰok] 8	'poison'
73.		[sɔŋ] 3	'crisp'
74.		[sak] 3	'rope'
75.	diphthongs	[tsʰaj] 3	'vegetables'
76.		[tsʰæj] 3	'guess'
77.		[fæj] 3	'fast'
78.		[kʰaj] 3	'calcium'
79.		[kʰaw] 2	'exam'
80.		[kaw] 2	'school'
81.		[hiw] 3	'mouth'
82.		[kiw] 3	'dog'
83.		[men] 5	'face'
84.		[len] 5	'to long for'
85.		[mew] 3	'cat'
86.		[kew] 3	'scream'
87.		[liw] 2	'flow'
88.		[ju] 3	'oil'
89.	tones	[lɔŋ] 1	'deaf'
90.		[naj] 2	'cliff'
91.		[tsiw] 3	'walk'

92.	[he] 5	'is'
93.	[ɲok] 7	'meat'
94.	[t <sup>h</sup> ok] 8	'poison'
95.	[wuj] 1	'offer'
96.	[wuj] 2	'sustain'
97.	[wuj] 3	'proud'
98.	[wuj] 5	'position'
99.	[wuj] 7	'great'
100.	[wuj] 8	'Hello!'

References:

Cheung, Amy. 1995. MS Hakka. University of Calgary, Linguistics 421, W95.