A Quick Guide to The Sounds of "Northern-Accented Mandarin"

Chinese

You'll watch a series of clips featuring people from various parts of northern China...

The highlights in the subtitles are pronunciation features that might throw you off if you're used to typical "Textbook Mandarin" and/or "Southern-Accented Mandarin".

#1

Extensive use of Erhua (儿化)
Erhua is the addition of an "-r" sound at the end of a syllable. (e.g. hua > huar)
This occurs in Standard Mandarin, but it's much more extensively used in casual northern-accented Mandarin.

Examples:
dòng huà piān r
动画片 儿
Cartoon
dǒng shì r de
懂事 儿 的
Sensible

zán zhèr méi dì tiě.
咱这儿没地铁。
We don't have subway here.

chī wán fàn, qù shàng bān ěr.
吃完饭，去上班儿。
Finish eating and go to work.

#2

In fast speech...

/zh/, /ch/, /sh/ and /z/, /c/, /s/ can change to /r/

Examples:

r
↑
sì shí duō suì.
四十多岁。
40+ years old.

r
↑
tā sì shí duō suì.
她四十多岁。
She's 40+ years old.

不zhī dào.
(l) don't know.

wǒ bùzhī dào tā shì nǎr rén
I don't know where she comes from.

duō shǎo qián?
How much?

zhèi duōshǎo qián?
How much is this?
zhèr duō shǎo qián？
这儿多少钱？
How much is this?

r
↑
mǎ shàng jiù dào.
马上就到。
(l) will be there any minute.

r
↑
wǒ mǎ shàng jiù dào.
我马上就到。
I will be there any minute.

r
↑
wǒ gào sù nǐ.
我告诉你。
I'm telling you.

r
↑
wǒ gào sù nǐ，zhèr diàn yǐngr lǎo hǎo kàn le.
我告诉你，这儿电影儿老好看了。
I'm telling you that this movie is amazing.
#3

In fast speech… /j/, /q/, /x/ can change to /y/

Examples:

y
↑
xī hóng shì chǎo jī dàn.
西红柿炒鸡蛋。
A dish of tomato fried eggs.

y
↑
lǎo bǎn, lái yī fèn xī hóng shì chǎo jī dàn.
老板，来一份西红柿炒鸡蛋。
Boss, get me a dish of tomato fried eggs.

y
↑
gǎn jǐn qù.
赶紧去。
Hurry up! / Go quickly!
#4

/w/ pronounced similar to an English /v/

Examples:

/w/  èn
èn
问
To ask

/w/  én
èn
闻
To smell

/w/  nǐ xǐ huān mǎi dōng xī ma?  wèi shén me?
你喜欢买东西吗？为什么？
Do you like shopping? Why?

/w/  fā wěi xīn.
发微信。
Send messages on Wechat.

通常和朋友出去玩儿。
I usually go out and have fun with my friends.

#5

/o/ pronounced similar to /e/

Examples:
é
 bó shì
博士
doctor / Ph.D.

è
nǐ men zhōu mò dā suàn zuò shén me？
你们周末打算做什么？
What are you going to do this weekend?
#6

**Strong nasal pronunciation of /ing/ (and other syllables that end with "ng")**

Examples:
ying
硬
Hard / firm

#7

**Extensive use of the "Neutral tone"**

The second syllable in many two-syllable words changes to a "neutral tone" (e.g. wǎn shàng > wǎn shang).

Note: While this is a feature of Standard Mandarin, it's included in this video as it can be helpful in differentiating between northern and southern accents.
(The neutral tone is rarely used in "Southern-Accented Mandarin")

Examples:
wǎn shang
晚上
evening

nǐ zuó tiān wǎn shang zuò le shén me？
你昨天晚上做了什么都？
What did you do last night?

#8

Tones change for emphasis

Examples:

ài
↑
hái
还
still

ài           ñg
↑            ↑
ância huà！ān jíng！
(You're) still talking. Be quiet!

iè
↑
bié
别
Don't
dìè
↑
bié shuō le!
别说了！
Don't talk! / Stop talking!

dìè
↑
bié gēn wǒ tán liàn ài， zán men jié hūn ba!
别跟我谈恋爱，咱们结婚吧！
Don't just date me, let's get married!

dé dào
gèi
to get
dé dào xìng fú.
gèi 到幸福。
To get happiness.

hǎo xiě
A Quick Guide to The Sounds of "Northern-Accented Mandarin"

好些
A lot

áo
↑
好些个读音都不一样。
A lot of words are pronounced differently.

ǐ
↑
xí fur
媳妇儿
Wife
My wife is Beijingnese.

FULL POST + VIDEO:
https://mandarinhq.com/2018/05/northern-chinese-accent/

☑️ Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/mandarinhq_/  
☑️ Twitter: https://twitter.com/MandarinHQ  
☑️ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/MandarinHQ  
☑️ Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/user/MandarinHQ  
☑️ Google+: https://plus.google.com/u/0/+AngelHuangmhq