The purpose of this study was to investigate the possibility of the recently developed hybrid cochlear implant as a solution for Mandarin speakers, a language in which words convey different meaning based on the tone and inflection used when the word is spoken. A program was developed that paired 10 monosyllabic Mandarin words with four tones, three processing conditions, and a male and female voice at random to produce 240 possible stimuli. Statistically significant differences were found between the traditional cochlear implant simulation and the hybrid simulation. Statistically significant differences were also found between the traditional cochlear implant simulation and the unprocessed condition. When success was assessed by tone, the unprocessed and hybrid conditions showed consistent success across all four tones. Not only did the traditional cochlear implant simulation show lower proportions of correct responses than the other two conditions, it showed much more variance across the tones. Allowing for some fine structure cues, the hybrid cochlear implant far surpasses the traditional cochlear implant as a solution for Mandarin speakers. The results suggest that the hybrid technology would be a beneficial alternative for some of the over 60 million individuals with profound hearing loss in China.