

Your Name Matters!

A simplified approach to
pronouncing people's names

By Virginia Stever



About me: Virginia Stever

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Part 1: Focus on East Asian Names

What this course will NOT do:

- Teach you how to speak a foreign language
- Replace pronunciations you already know due to other languages you may speak

What this course will hopefully do:

- Help native (and non-native) English speakers pronounce people's names from different parts of the world - not perfectly but better.
- Understand why it is difficult to pronounce them; and
- Give you the tools to succeed in doing so.

Overview

- Anatomy, Linguistics and Phonology
- Vowels - keeping it simple
- Practice with basic vowels
- Intro to Consonants
- Practice pronouncing names

PRINCIPLE #6

**REMEMBER THAT
A PERSON'S
NAME IS TO THAT
PERSON THE
SWEETEST AND
MOST IMPORTANT
SOUND IN ANY
LANGUAGE.**

- Dale Carnegie

#dalecarnegie100



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(Carnegie, n.d.)

What's in a name?

Our name is our personal and
unique identifier to family,
friends and all whom we meet.

Many cultures do not follow the
Western convention of given
(Christian) name followed by a
single family name (Surname).
Chinese, Korean, Japanese and
Vietnamese names all appear with
surname (family name) first.*

(Naming Conventions for Asian
Names - ACU)

Hi Virginia

Thanks for your help in
these two years. I am very
happy to meet you.

Best wishes

Yumeng He

That was
SO NICE
of you.

Why do we struggle?

Anatomy, Linguistics & Phonology - a quick glance

Vowels

-the less articulated sounds



How to move your vowels

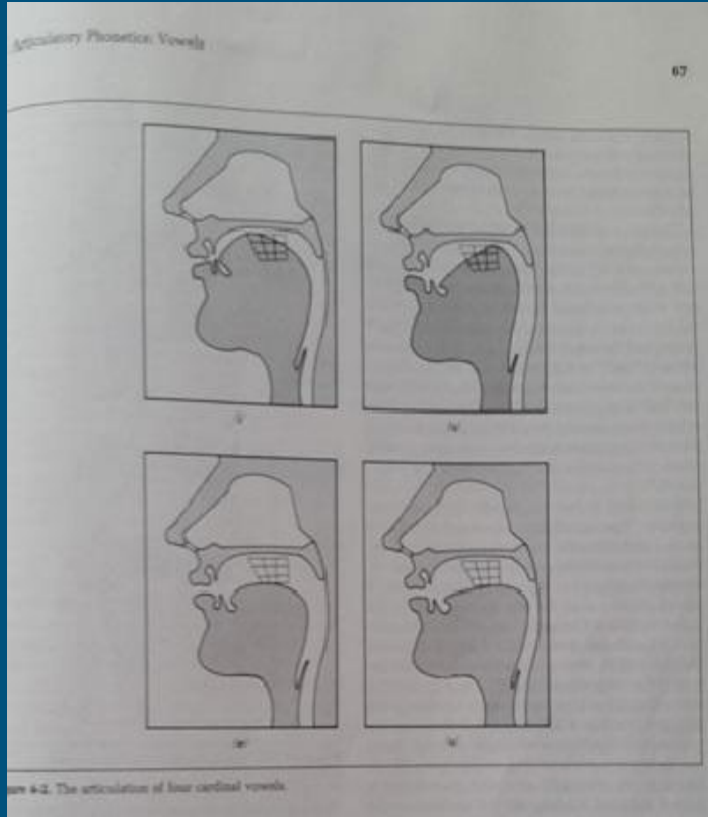
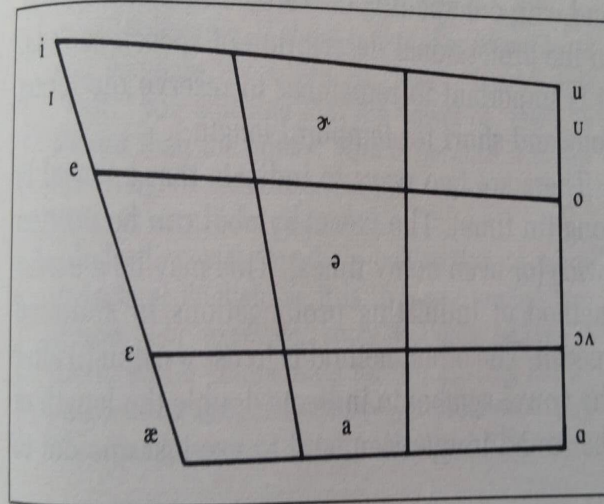


Figure 4-4. The vowel quadrangle.



(Mackay1987)

Let's give
it a try

The Vowels



¡ A - E - I - O - U

El burro sabe
mas que tu !



Don't be shy -Give it a try

A = ah

e = a (neighbor and weigh)

i = e (wee, tree)

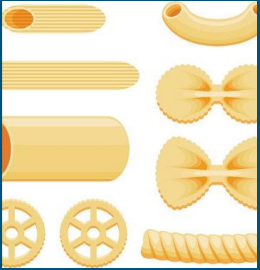
o = o (tote, coat, moat)

u = u (zoo, moot, toot)

Exception: e will sound like 'uh' as in 'the'- this is mostly for one syllable words

You already know these!





pasta



pita



coca-cola



taco

(Fotosearch)



Mona-Lisa



tutu

Congratulations!

You can now speak Spanish!

Let's try some combos



Combining vowels - gloss them together

ai ai - sounds like the “i” in right

ao ao- sounds like “ou” in Ouch

ei ei - sounds like “ey” in hey

oi oi- sounds like “oy” in boy

ui ui-sort of sounds like wee

Let's add some consonants



Languages

Chinese

c= ts

q = ch

x= sh

zh = dg

Vietnamese

ng = nyuh

Turkish

Ç = ch

Korean

K=g

p=b

l=y or r

Common Korean names

Kim = gim

Park = bak

Lee = yee or ree

The Vowels - A reminder

A - E - I - O - U

a = ah

e = a as in neighbor and weigh

i = e as in wee, tree

o = o as in tote, coat, moat

u = u as in zoo, moot, toot

Exception: e will sound like 'uh' as in
the

Let's try some easy names
first



蕭 魏



Hanyu Pinyin

An easier way!

Let's try some of these common names

Wei Xiao

Han Yuan

Ning Li

Shi Feng

Yue Chi

Ok - now let's add some syllables

Wei Xiao

Mengtian Chen

Han Yuan

Jiani Gao

Ning Li

Zili Yang

Shi Feng

Chunming Qiao

Yue Chi

Jinhui Xu

Exception - Lee

The reason it is spelled like Lee is because it comes from the same Chinese character as the popular Chinese surname



L(i) spelled Lee and sometimes Yi or Rhee

Although it might have sounded like Lee in the past, in modern South Korea, this name is not pronounced Lee at all but more like 'ee' or sometimes 'yee'.

Exception - oo

- Sulagna Mookerjee
- Moon Jae-in

Double consonants – already
accounts for the vowel sound



You can apply
this to all names
and you will be
reasonably close

People You May Know

Satish Tripathi

Moon Jae-in

Venu Govindaraju

Benjamin Netanyahu

Barack Obama

Hamad bin Isa al Khalifa

Jinjun Xiong

Xi Jinping

But I digress

Now you know why others may attempt to pronounce your name the way they do.



These look difficult - but you can do it!

Huayan Geng

Masatsugu Suzuki

Xingye Qiao

Mianzhui Wang

Minjie Huang

Huiting Tian

Zhezhi Hou

Yaobin Wang

Xiaofei Li

Takeru Kabayashi

You Did It!

Keep practicing and work with people you know.

How to Pronounce Chinese Names

<http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~zhuxj/readpinyin.html>

Cal Poly Pomona Asian Name Pronunciation Guide

<https://www.cpp.edu/~pronunciation/>

- Good Internet Source
- Many rules to follow
- Have to look it up

xie xie



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