Your Name Matters!
A simplified approach to pronouncing people’s names

By 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
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

Yuemeng He

That was so nice of you.
Why do we struggle?
Anatomy, Linguistics & Phonology - a quick glance
Manner of articulation
(Hayes, 2009)
Vowels
-the less articulated sounds
How to move your vowels

(Mackay1987)
Let's give it a try
The Vowels

¡A - E - I - O - U

El burro sabe mas que tu!

http://www.clipartsuggest.com/cartoon-donkey-cliparts/
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

Mona-Lisa

coca-cola

tutu
Congratulations!

You can now speak Spanish!
Let’s try some combos
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Combining vowels</th>
<th>Gloss them together</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ai</td>
<td>ai - sounds like the “i” in right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ao</td>
<td>ao- sounds like “ou” in Ouch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ei</td>
<td>ei - sounds like “ey” in hey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oi</td>
<td>oi- sounds like “oy” in boy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ui</td>
<td>ui-sort of sounds like wee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Let’s add some consonants
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Symbols</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chinese</strong></td>
<td>c= ts, q = ch, x= sh, zh = dg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vietnamese</strong></td>
<td>ng = nyuh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Turkish</strong></td>
<td>Ç = ch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Korean</strong></td>
<td>K=g, p=b, l=y or r</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
萧巍
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
Han Yuan
Ning Li
Shi Feng
Yue Chi

Mengtian Chen
Jiani Gao
Zili Yang
Chunming Qiao
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

Double consonants – already accounts for the vowel sound

- Sulagna Mookerjee
- Moon Jae-in
You can apply this to all names and you will be reasonably close
People You May Know

Satish Tripathi
Venu Govindaraju
Barack Obama
Jinjun Xiong

Moon Jae-in
Benjamin Netanyahu
Hamad bin Isa al Khalifa
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
Xingye Qiao
Minjie Huang
Zhezhi Hou
Xiaofei Li
Masatsugu Suzuki
Mianzhui Wang
Huiting Tian
Yaobin Wang
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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Your Feedback Will Help

Please take my survey. Your feedback will help me to improve my program.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/12CyqECZaPshu4DaQaiYp0SxJVwjPCV1x2b_fEtCBpRc/edit