

## International Student Name Guide

# Names at a Glance

This handout provides brief pronunciation tips for common Arabic, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese names. Separate colors are used to indicate places where names appear as one in English but are actually two distinct parts and should be spoken as such.

If you know the origin of the name you may also be able to approximate its pronunciation by looking at spelling patterns and their corresponding sounds within that section. This guide is intended to be a starting place for pronunciation; while talking with students will help you fine tune how to pronounce their names.

## Arabic

### Ahmed

Ahh (extra air on the h sound)      mud(hard D)

### Alali

Allah-liuh (no air on the last h)

### Alkalbani

Wal-kal-bani

### Faisal

Fuy similar to the beginning of the English word 'fight'      sal with emphasis on the end of the cluster

### Hamed

Ham-id ending cluster sounds like the English word 'id'

## Chinese

### Bao

[Hard B] Bao similar to English 'bow'

### Chuan

Choo-ann

### Ding

[soft D with no air] Ding similar to English 'ring'

### Fan

Fan; Rhymes with 'flan'

### Tao

Tow; rhymes with English 'how'

### Tian

Tee on; put together the English words 'tee' and 'on'

### Wang

Wong; sounds like the English word 'wrong' without the r and more emphasis on the end of the word

### Wei

Way

## Gu

Guuuu; similar to the sound people make when they lift weights

## Guo

Gu-oo; the final o is gradually opened and is similar to the way it would sound if you said it speaking into a fan

## He

Hu-eh

## Hu

Huh; rhymes with English 'duh'

## Huang

[soft H with air] hwa-ng; say quickly with no brake but keep separate style pronunciation for 'hwa'

## Jiahao

Jee-uh How

## Jianxin

Jee-ann Sheen

## Jiaqing

Jee-ah ching; rhymes with ring

## Jingshu

[soft J with no air] Jing; rhymes with English 'ring'

Shew; similar to the sound people make to tell something to go away

## Jinyi

[soft J with no air] Jin

eee; the same as the way we pronounce the letter 'e' in English

## Juxian

[soft J with no air] Juh; rhymes with English 'duh'

she-annn

## Liao

Lee-ow; ending sounds like the beginning of English word 'ouch'

## Liu

Lee-eww; the last part sounds like the English sound 'eww' but is tighter

## Lu

Lughh; the last part sounds similar to the English sound 'ugh'

## Luo

Lu-wo; the vowel sounds like 'woah'

## Weiqliang

wei; similar to the English word 'way' She-annng

## Wenyuan

When yoo-ann

## Wu

Woo

## Xia

She-ah; keep pronunciation of she as in English word 'she'

## Xie

She-eh; like English word 'she'; pronounce eh like the sound 'eh' associated with indifference

## Xingzhi

Ching

jure; rhymes with English word 'sure' (Beijing accent)

## Xinzhe

Sheen

ju; the sound of the first half of the English word 'just'

## Xiong

She-ong; keep pronunciation of on like the English word 'on'

## Xiaotong

Show; rhymes with English word 'how'

rhymes with 'song'

## Xu

Shew; similar to English sound shew used to dismiss something

## Xueer

Shway; similar to English word 'way'

err; same pronunciation as in English word 'error'

## Xueqiu

Shway; similar to English word 'way' choo

## Ya-Chih

Yah Chee

## Yang

Yong; similar to English word 'long'

## Yao

Lee-you; say quickly together

## Lyu

Lee-you; say quickly together

## Peng

Pang; similar to English word 'rang'

## Qiangke

She-annng

Kuh; rhymes with English sound 'uh'

## Qing Huang

Ching

Hwa-aan-g; say quickly while keeping separate style pronunciation

## Qiu

Chee-oo

## Rongjie

Rong; rhymes with English 'wrong'

Jee-yeah; yeah gradually opens and sounds like if you were speaking into a fan

## Rui

Re-; sounds like the prefix 're' in English

## Ruotian

Rooah; sounds like the ending of the English 'woah'

[soft t with air] tee-annn

## Ruoyu

Rooah; sounds like the ending of the English 'woah'

Yoo; sounds like English word 'you'

## Shangwei

Shang; vowel sounds the same as in the English word 'prawn'

wei; similar to the English word 'way'

## Shi

Sure (Beijing accent)

## Ye

Yeah

## Yici

E; same as the English letter 'e'      chee

## Yifei

E; same as the English letter 'e'      Faye

## Yilun

E; same as the English letter 'e'      loon

## You

Yo; similar to English slang 'yo'

## Yuan

Yoo-ann

## ZeYu

tsu; similar to the beginning of the English word 'just'      tsu; similar to the beginning of the English word 'just'

## Zhang

Jong; similar pronunciation to English word 'long'

## Zhao

Jow; rhymes with English word 'how'

## Zhouzhi

Jo; similar to the English abbreviation for the name Josephine      jer; rhymes with English word 'her'

## Zhu

ju; similar to the beginning of the English word 'just'

## Korean

## Cho

Chow; rhymes with English word 'low'

## Choi

Chay; rhymes with English word 'way'

## Jiwon

G; same pronunciation as English letter 'g'

Wu-an; where 'an' is pronounced like 'on' with a w added to the front

## Kang

Kaa-ng (say quickly together)

## SeokJae

Sook Jay

## Seonwoo

Son (vowel is more nasal)      woo

**Jung**  
(hard Ch) Chung

**Jusung**

Juh; rhymes with English sound 'uh'

sung; same as past tense of verb to sing

**Seung-Yeon**

Suuh-ng (say quickly together)

Yu-on (say quickly together)

**Yoo**

Yoo similar to English word 'you'

## Vietnamese

---

**Bach**

Baht

**Chau**

Cho (less air for the ch sound)

**Chu**

Tzo (less air for the tz sound)

**Do**

Do ; rhymes with English word 'low'

**Duy Anh**

Dwee

similar to the English letter 'I'

**Huy Anh**

Hwee

similar to the English letter 'I'

**Huynh**

Hwee

**Loc Khanh**

Lok

Kai-e

**Loc Thanh**

Lok

Tie ; similar to English word 'tie'

**Lu**

Lo; similar to English word 'low'

**Minh Ngoc**

Mee Ngoh

**Nguyen**

Nwee-un

**Quynh**

Kwee

**Ta**

Ta (no air on the 't' sound)

**Thi Thuc**

T; same as English letter 't' Thoh

**Thuy Cao**

Thwee (no air on the 'th' sound)

Cao; rhymes with English word 'cow'

**Tin Vi**

Teen

V; similar to English letter 'v'

**Tran**

Tran; rhymes with 'flan'

**Trinh**

Tree

**Vo**

Va; rhymes with musical note 'fa'