

The Story Games Names Project

**Compiled by volunteers from
story-games.com**

Foreword by Paul Tevis

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by Paul Tevis

“What’s Montague? it is nor hand, nor foot,
Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part
Belonging to a man. O, be some other name!
What’s in a name? that which we call a rose
By any other name would smell as sweet;
So Romeo would, were he not Romeo call’d,
Retain that dear perfection which he owes
Without that title.”

--Romeo and Juliet, Act II, Scene 2

Shakespeare is, of course, pulling our leg on this one. I find it difficult to believe that a man who wrote plays about a missing princess named Perdita (from the Italian word for “loss”), a suicidal girl named Ophelia (from the Greek for “help”), and a villain named Iago (a Spanish variant of James, from the Hebrew meaning “he who supplants”) really thought that names don’t matter. After all, good names take a long time to come up with. Given his rehearsal schedule, if Shakespeare really believed this nonsense he would have had a lot more plays with characters named “Bob.”

Like Shakespeare, I love names, and I understand their importance in creating an appropriate dramatic mood. (Unlike Shakespeare, I’m not a genius, but you work with what you’ve got.) Names are an important part of my games. When I’m putting together a campaign setting, one of the first things I go for is a name list. Am I running a Viking game? Then I’ve got to have Viking names. Finding the right name for a character is not only critical to my process of fixing the character in my head, but sometimes it lets me pull cute tricks. One of my recent games involved the largely bilingual culture of fifth century Britain. Certain of the nobles from lesser-Romanized regions were known by two or three different names: a Celtic birth name, a Latinized version of the Celtic name, and sometimes a completely Romanized name. As a result, I was able to subtly hint at characters’ opinions about the High King depending on whether they called him Wortigernos, Vortigern, or Vitalinus. Much to my delight, the players did the same thing. Take that, High King Bob.

Many of my favorite game books have name lists in them already. Often, that’s what makes them my favorites, as it’s much easier to get a sense of what a game world is like if you know what the people in it are called. Sometimes, though, you’re left without such a resource, either because the game doesn’t include it or because you’re transplanting the system into a completely different setting. That’s where this book comes in. Jason Morningstar, a man who clearly understands the value of an evocative name, got the idea of harnessing the awesome might of Story-Games.com, a community of story-oriented gamers, to put together a whole book of name lists drawn from different cultures. This volume is the fruit of that effort, and I have to say I’m impressed with the results. I knew about the project, but until Jason asked me to write this introduction I hadn’t realized that in amongst the more pedestrian “Byzantine Greek” and “Sengalese” lists were gems like “Creepy Campus,” “Owlbear,” and “Ridiculous Hobo.” There’s tons of great inspiration here, and hardly a Bob among them.

So, there you go. You get twenty names per list, a number which is neither too few nor too many and is easily selected from via a random method, if you know what I mean. Take these lists and flavor your games with them. Because you, Shakespeare, and I know, there’s nothing worse than an owlbear named Bob.

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Fantastical Names



1001 Nights

Compiled by Meguey Baker

These names are taken from the 1001 Nights collected by Andrew Lang, with a few additions. If you feel the need for a character with a full name, an easy way is to choose 'Name ibn Father's Name' for a male and 'Name bint Father's Name' for a female. Being known only as 'Ibn Father's Name' would be common and fine. 'Name al-Adjective' (as 'the Lionhearted', the Bald' etc.) is very common for men, far less so for women. Adding 'Baba' before a name is a handy familiar honorific, as 'Uncle' would be. Women are often honored as 'Umm (mother of) Child's Name, Name'. For nobility, Amir and Amira for Prince and Princess is easy.

A number of lists are listed which can be transformed into surnames. Simply add the prefix 'al-' and take off the suffix '-i', except as noted.

MALE

- 1) Ahmed
- 2) Hasad
- 3) Behman
- 4) Schraiaz
- 5) Cassim
- 6) Mahmoud
- 7) Danash
- 8) Abdalla
- 9) Mustapha
- 10) Douban
- 11) Gifar
- 12) Haroun
- 13) Marzaman
- 14) Mihrage
- 15) Damriat
- 16) Perviz
- 17) Firouz
- 18) Rashid
- 19) Sidi
- 20) Zouman

FEMALE

- 1) Amira
- 2) Ismalia
- 3) Balsora
- 4) Nisam
- 5) Serendib
- 6) Dinarzade
- 7) Nour
- 8) Imma
- 9) Maimoune
- 10) Melia
- 11) Badoura
- 12) Malika
- 13) Zara
- 14) Nourigan
- 15) Aziza
- 16) Morgiana
- 17) Parizade
- 18) Maryam
- 19) Serit
- 20) Zouluka

1001 Nights

ADJECTIVES

- 1) Najjar - carpenter
- 2) Husayn - beautiful
- 3) Rabi - spring
- 4) Abbas - frowner
- 5) Khalil - friend
- 6) Azhar - shining
- 7) Basir - wise
- 8) Fayyad - generous
- 9) Katib - scribe/author
- 10) Hakam - judge
- 11) Walid - newcomer
- 12) Sagher - young
- 13) Awar - one-eyed
- 14) Darir - blind
- 15) Kabib - elder
- 16) Hasib - respected
- 17) Abrash - leper
- 18) Mubarak - lucky
- 19) Quatan - cloth worker
- 20) Hadad - blacksmith

PLACES, FAITHS AND TRIBES

- 1) Rashidi - line of Rashid
- 2) Jahmi - line of Jahm
- 3) Tahiri - line of Tahir
- 4) Ghassani - line of Ghassan
- 5) Suli - line of Sul
- 6) Iskafi - Iskafiyah sect
- 7) Sufi - Sufi mystic (keep the 'i')
- 8) Uqlidsi - studier of Euclid
- 9) Nasrani - Christian (keep the 'i')
- 10) Hindi - Hindu/Indian (keep the 'i')
- 11) Rawandi - Persian
- 12) Ikmimi - Egyptian
- 13) Ifriqi - North African
- 14) Badawi - Bedouin
- 15) Rumi - Roman
- 16) Sakhawi - Egyptian
- 17) Abartai - near Baghdad
- 18) Samari - from Sammarkand
- 19) Jurashi - Yemen
- 20) Maghribi - West African

CITIES AND PLACES

- 1) Mecca
- 2) Samarkand
- 3) Dimashqui / Damascus
- 4) Rome
- 5) Constantinople
- 6) Mawsil - Mosul
- 7) Madinah - Medina
- 8) Baghdad
- 9) Marrakesh
- 10) Morocco
- 11) Hebron
- 12) Sanaa
- 13) Buraydah
- 14) Tabuk
- 15) Kairouan
- 16) Jerusalem
- 17) Nazara / Nazareth
- 18) Bakkah
- 19) Aden
- 20) Alexandria

1001 Nights



A Thousand and One
Nights
by
Meguey Baker
www.nightskygames.com

FASHION AND FOOD

Cotton, silk, linen, and wool are common. Velvet and gauze and all weights between are used. Rich red, blue, purple and orange dyes are common, with pastels being a sign of very old, worn-out cloth. Embroidery is extremely common, especially over the chest and upper back, along seams, at cuffs, and hems - geometrics are favored, but abstract organic shapes are found. Every one who can afford jewelry wears it.

FOOD AND DRINK

- 1) coffee, raisin wine, shaved ice with fruit syrups
- 2) anise seed drink, mint tea, fruit juices
- 3) dates, figs, cashews, walnuts
- 4) garlic and sesame paste with vegetables and pita to dip
- 5) saffron rice with cashews and raisins
- 6) almond coil cake
- 7) hummus and pita
- 8) taboule - bulgar wheat, onions, parsley, lemon, cucumber, mint
- 9) grape leaves stuffed with lamb and rice
- 10) baklaba - pistachios and honey pastry
- 11) roast goat or lamb with coriander, cumin and pepper
- 12) babaganoush
- 13) zalata - yogurt, cucumbers, herbs
- 14) lentil and vegetable stew
- 15) fried pudding with syrup
- 16) rabbit or fowl, marinated and roasted, with herbs and couscous
- 17) oranges, pomegranetes, peaches, grapes, apricots
- 18) sugared cubes of jellied fruit
- 19) tagine - meat or vegetable stew on couscous
- 20) grape leaves stuffed with raisins, rice and almonds

1001 Nights

FASHION FOR MEN

- 1) Izar - length of cloth tied at the hips, reaching below the knees
- 2) Dishdasha - short sleeved loose rectangle shaped v-neck gown
- 3) Sirwal - slim fitting cotton pants, worn as an undergarment
- 4) Thobe - slim gown with a simple sleeve and short collar, usually a light color
- 5) Vest - often matching in material to the kaftan
- 6) Kaftan - long sleeved loose gown with a simple slit neck, highly embroidered
- 7) Mashala - sleeved robe of heavier fabric, worn as coat over a kaftan
- 8) Aba - wide dark rectangular wrap, slit to form a back and two equal front sides
- 9) Taksirah - short sleeved jacket in rich dark color with embroidery, open in the front
- 10) Taquiyah - small white pill-box type cap
- 11) Ghutra - triangular scarf worn over the cap and secured by a band
- 12) Turban - long length of fabric folded, twisted or wrapped around the cap
- 13) Hayim - length of fabric folded and tucked as a belt with pockets, including a dagger
- 14) Khanjar - a broad curved dagger
- 15) Boots - thick soled leather boots with small heels (for stirrups)
- 16) Slippers - thin soled, decorated shoes with slighting up-turned and pointed toes
- 17) Sandals - leather, with moderate soles and wide straps over the foot, bare toes.
- 18) Jewelry: rings
- 19) Jewelry: necklaces and bracelets
- 20) Jewelry: earrings

FASHION FOR WOMEN

- 1) Sirwal - slim fitting cotton pants, narrow at the ankles, worn as an undergarment
- 2) Libas - very full pants of fine fabric, gathered at the waist and ankle
- 3) Karsh - very full skirt, usually in several gathered tiers, with ribbon trim at the hem
- 4) Thobe - slim gown with a simple sleeve and short collar, usually a light color
- 5) Thob'ob - gown of extreme length bloused over a narrow belt to make a second skirt
- 6) Abaya - gently flaring long gown with flared long sleeves, all with embroidery
- 7) Sirish - gown with tight elbow-length sleeves and a low neckline, worn over pants
- 8) Suriya Mabdu - rectangular knee length gown with sheer sleeves, worn over pants
- 9) Vest - tight fitting stiffed vest, highly decorated, worn over suriya mabdu
- 10) Beladi - long gown with long sleeves, slit on the sides, worn over pants
- 11) Kaftan - long sleeved gown with a square neckline, often embroidered
- 12) Jillayh - gown slightly fitted through the bodice and flaring from the hips to ankles
- 13) Mashala - sleeved robe of heavier fabric, decorated through the chest, over a kaftan
- 14) Aba - wide dark colored rectangular wrap, slit to form a back and two equal front sides
- 15) Henna - black, red, or brown paste used to decorate hands and feet with patterns
- 16) Veil - various lengths of cloth used to cover the hair and/or face, can be sheer or not
- 17) Asab Hrir - cloth with tasseled ends that hang down the sides, secured by a cap
- 18) Chador - full-body veiling, with a lace, net, or embroidered screen for the eyes
- 19) Slippers - thin soled, embroidered shoes with slighting up-turned and pointed toes
- 20) Sandals - leather, with moderate soles and wide straps over the foot, bare toes.

You All Meet in a Tavern...

Compiled by Brendan Adkins and
Meguey Baker

Make a Tavern any time, any place. Take one from Tavern Column A and one from Tavern Column B. Nearly all of these could have 'The' before them.

Combine Regulars and Surnames lists, or chain Epithet + Wench + Surname. Add a brawl and some shady information about the Dangerous Place Just Outside of Town and viola! Instant adventure.

TAVERNS COLUMN A

- 1) Dancing
- 2) Harp and
- 3) Vixen's
- 4) Odd
- 5) Blue
- 6) Three
- 7) Oak and
- 8) Grey
- 9) Top o' the
- 10) Maggie's
- 11) Tatterly's
- 12) Rod and
- 13) Five
- 14) Robin's
- 15) Starlight
- 16) Shay's
- 17) King Phillip's
- 18) Clover and
- 19) Dusty
- 20) Golden

DANGEROUS PLACES JUST OUTSIDE TOWN

- 1) Ashen Way
- 2) Barrymore's Hole
- 3) Cobblefall
- 4) Cold Riley Holler
- 5) Dry Willow's Hovel
- 6) Edger See
- 7) Glass Junction
- 8) Greenslick Well
- 9) Horse Leap
- 10) Iblis Grot
- 11) Kettleblack Road
- 12) Peppersnake Fen
- 13) Queery Cave
- 14) Quicksilver Inlet
- 15) Slipshine Gulley
- 16) Splayhand Manor
- 17) Switchback Tumble
- 18) Tall Man's Shadow
- 19) The Empty
- 20) The Glow

TAVERNS COLUMN B

- 1) Dove
- 2) Den
- 3) Bucks
- 4) Unicorn
- 5) Sisters
- 6) Ash
- 7) Goose
- 8) Green
- 9) Place
- 10) Reel
- 11) Crossroads
- 12) Nest
- 13) Inn
- 14) Lounge
- 15) Rose
- 16) Miller's
- 17) Griffin
- 18) Leaf
- 19) Bull
- 20) Stones

You All Meet in a Tavern...

TAVERN REGULARS

- 1) Arp
- 2) Bailey
- 3) Binko
- 4) Catgut
- 5) Darby
- 6) Dodd
- 7) Evrit
- 8) Frank
- 9) Gipper
- 10) Jon
- 11) Lucky
- 12) Mordecai
- 13) Old Bern
- 14) One-Eye
- 15) Pato
- 16) Ratch
- 17) Soldier
- 18) Thar
- 19) Uncle
- 20) Whiskey

TAVERN WENCH EPITHETS

- 1) Big
- 2) Black-Eyed
- 3) Blousy
- 4) Dour
- 5) The Duchess
- 6) Friendly
- 7) Frigid
- 8) "Holy"
- 9) Jolly
- 10) Knee-High
- 11) Love-A-Brick
- 12) Loud
- 13) Pretty
- 14) Ruddy
- 15) Salty
- 16) Shy
- 17) Slippery
- 18) Sly
- 19) Sneezing
- 20) Three-Beer

ANGLO-GERMANIC-ISH SURNAMES

- 1) Appelbaun
- 2) Brunshaus
- 3) Dooley
- 4) Dogskin
- 5) Elbert
- 6) Gose
- 7) Godard
- 8) Knickerbing
- 9) Lumpley
- 10) Moony
- 11) Nobody
- 12) Phalter
- 13) Pilgrim
- 14) Poorpenny
- 15) Putzkammer
- 16) Scumble
- 17) Smith
- 18) Thewsday
- 19) Wossiface
- 20) Call-'Em-(select from epithets list)

TAVERN WENCHES

- 1) Aubra
- 2) Beaulinda
- 3) Brenna
- 4) Cherry
- 5) Darcy
- 6) Darva
- 7) Elske
- 8) "Girl"
- 9) Hella
- 10) Jane
- 11) Kate
- 12) Kim
- 13) Louisie
- 14) Mina
- 15) Panjandra
- 16) Polly
- 17) Poppine
- 18) Sally
- 19) Violet
- 20) Winnie

Contemporary Names



Chinese

Compiled by Jonathan Walton

Westerners encounter Chinese names in a variety of different formats, based on 1) which transliteration system (pinyin, Wade-Giles, HK government, some improvised system) is being used, 2) which dialect the name is being transcribed from (Mandarin, Cantonese, Fukien), 3) which order the various parts of the name (surname, given name, English name) are put in. Let's deal with the last issue first, since it's the most complex.

ORDERING CHINESE NAMES

Traditional: Surname + Given Name = Liang Jiawei / Leung Chiu-wai

Traditional HK Style: Anglo Name + Surname + Given Name = Tony Leung Chiu-wai

Short Flipped HK Style: Anglo Name + Surname =

Tony Leung

Long Flipped HK Style: Anglo Name + Given Name + Surname =

Tony Chiu-wai Leung

SPACE, NO SPACE, HYPHEN, APOSTROPHE?

If you have a two-character given name (or a rare two-character surname), you can either put a space between the characters and capitalize both (Chiu Wai), hyphenate them and capitalize just the first one or both (Chiu-wai / Chiu-Wai), not have any divider between them at all (Jiawei), or, if there's the possibility that running them together might cause them to be read incorrectly, you can put an apostrophe between the two characters (Ji'an vs. Jin'an). Which method you use also has cultural considerations.

People from HK and Taiwan (and Macao, and Singapore) love hyphens. Hyphenate that bad boy and be done with it. But they're not always consistent, so you could do it another way, if you prefer. People from the mainland tend to run the characters together and use apostrophes in the rare cases where they might be necessary. Usually you don't need a divider (Mao Zedong, Zhu Rongji, Deng Xiaoping). Some people prefer to space all the characters out (Deng Xiao Ping), but this is much less common.

Chinese people in other parts of the world (the diaspora) are not especially consistent. Look up a bunch of Chinese names in the area you want your character to be from and punctuate your name accordingly.

Chinese

CHINESE SURNAMES

There is a limited list of commonly-encountered Chinese surnames, numbering around 500. Most of these are a single character, but two-character surnames do exist and are especially popular for dramatic personae because of their unusual flavor. The 20 most common surnames account for around 50% of the population, which is why you encounter so many people named Wang, Li, Zhang, Liu, Huang, Zhao, Ma, etc. The 100 most common surnames account for about 85% of Chinese people everywhere.

COMMON SURNAMES 2

- 1) Zheng / Cheng / Cheng
- 2) Luo / Lo / Lo
- 3) Song / Sung / Soong
- 4) Xie / Hsieh / Tse
- 5) Tang / T'ang / Tong
- 6) Han / Han / Hon
- 7) Cao / Ts'ao / Tso
- 8) Xu / Hsu / Hui
- 9) Deng / Teng / Tang
- 10) Xiao / Hsiao / Siu
- 11) Feng / Feng / Fung
- 12) Zeng / Tseng / Tsang
- 13) Cheng / Ch'eng / Ching
- 14) Cai / Ts'ai / Choi
- 15) Peng / P'eng / Pang
- 16) Pan / P'an / Poon
- 17) Yuan / Yuan / Yuen
- 18) Yu / Yu / Yue
- 19) Dong / Tung / Tung
- 20) Yu / Yu / Yee

COMMON SURNAMES 1

- 1) Li / Li / Lee
- 2) Wang / Wang / Wong
- 3) Zhang / Chang / Cheung
- 4) Liu / Liu / Lau
- 5) Chen / Ch'en / Chan
- 6) Yang / Yang / Yeung
- 7) Huang / Huang / Wong
- 8) Zhao / Chao / Chiu
- 9) Zhou / Chou / Chow
- 10) Wu / Wu / Ng
- 11) Xu / Hsu / Tsui
- 12) Sun / Sun / Suen
- 13) Zhu / Chu / Chu
- 14) Ma / Ma / Ma
- 15) Hu / Hu / Woo
- 16) Guo / Kuo / Kwok
- 17) Lin / Lin / Lam
- 18) He / He / Ho
- 19) Gao / Kao / Ko
- 20) Liang / Liang / Leung

COMPOUND SURNAMES

- 1) Baili / Pak Lee
- 2) Dongfang / Tung Fong
- 3) Duanmu / Tuen Muk
- 4) Gongsun / Kung Suen
- 5) Guliang / Kuk Leung
- 6) Helian / Hak Lin
- 7) Huyan / Fu Yin
- 8) Linghu / Ling Wu
- 9) Murong / Mo Yung
- 10) Nangong / Nam Kung
- 11) Ouyang / Au Yeung
- 12) Shangguan / Sheung Kwun
- 13) Sima / Sze Ma
- 14) Situ / Sze To
- 15) Taishi / Tai Shi
- 16) Ximen / Sai Mun
- 17) Zhangsun / Cheung Suen
- 18) Zhuge / Chu Kok
- 19) Zhurong / Chok Yung
- 20) Zuoren / Tso Yan

Chinese

CHINESE GIVEN NAMES

Chinese given names are either one or two characters and can be almost anything. However, in practice, most character combinations don't make good names. Developing a sense of what is and isn't a good name can be difficult if you are not in an environment where you know thousands of Chinese people and can infer good names from those you already know.

There are names that are clearly female, those that are clearly male, and those that are ambiguous. Generally, female names are often related to flowers, birds, beauty, and other "feminine" things. Male names are often abstract virtues (strength, diligence, wherewithal).

Some given names either are or sound like verb-object combinations or other grammatical phrases, like "seeks truth" or "bright future." Not all of them make that kind of grammatical sense. My Chinese name means "strong life," but no one would actually use that character combination in a sentence.

a) Generational Names

Traditionally, all family members of a specific generation (you, your siblings, and your cousins) might share the first character of their given name. Li Mubai, for example, might have a cousin named Li Mu-

rong. The next generation would have a different generational character in their name. Sometimes these characters, when written together, form a poem or admonition. Generational names are not especially common in modern times (partially due to the One Child Policy), but you do run into them occasionally, with cousins. Soon, however, most urban people won't have cousins.

b) Birth Order Names

Way, way back, the first character of your given name was often an indication of what order you were born in. This practice is even less common than generational names, but sometimes a family will decide to be old fashioned. Still, let's not deal with it.

Chinese

FEMALE MANDARIN GIVEN NAMES 1

- 1) Yandong
- 2) Jianxiu
- 3) Luli
- 4) Xiulian
- 5) Sheng
- 6) Fangchun
- 7) Jie
- 8) Chunmei
- 9) Guoying
- 10) Jingzhen
- 11) Yiping
- 12) Ling
- 13) Pingyan
- 14) Shiyu
- 15) Jinhua
- 16) Dan
- 17) Xiuli
- 18) Lili
- 19) Yinting
- 20) Paihong

FEMALE MANDARIN GIVEN NAMES 2

- 1) Lihua
- 2) Huirong
- 3) Mei
- 4) Hongwu
- 5) Hui
- 6) Cunxiu
- 7) Zhuanrong
- 8) Ya
- 9) Shaoming
- 10) Jiaohua
- 11) Yun
- 12) Zhenzhen
- 13) Chenghua
- 14) Xiaonan
- 15) Zhisheng
- 16) Hua
- 17) Qin
- 18) Li
- 19) Luming
- 20) Xianglan

MALE MANDARIN GIVEN NAMES 1

- 1) Zhongyu
- 2) Hui
- 3) Jin
- 4) Siqin
- 5) Guoming
- 6) Lichen
- 7) Haocai
- 8) Kehui
- 9) Tienong
- 10) Kuiyuan
- 11) Kuangdi
- 12) Zhaozhuo
- 13) Mengfu
- 14) Xuan
- 15) Meng
- 16) Lei
- 17) Zhaoguo
- 18) Tieying
- 19) Huaren
- 20) Jialu

MALE MANDARIN GIVEN NAMES 2

- 1) Shisun
- 2) Yongxiang
- 3) Qide
- 4) Bangguo
- 5) Jiabao
- 6) Peiyan
- 7) Liangyu
- 8) Yongkang
- 9) Jianmin
- 10) Zhili
- 11) Caihou
- 12) Ji'nai
- 13) Guanglie
- 14) Bingde
- 15) Qingchen
- 16) Dingfa
- 17) Zhiyuan
- 18) Xilong
- 19) Yang
- 20) Chunwang

Chinese

HK/CANTONESE FEM. GIVEN NAMES

- 1) Shuk-Yee
- 2) Chung-Yee
- 3) Sau-Tung
- 4) Mei-Mei
- 5) Bee-Lung
- 6) Cheuk-Wa
- 7) Kin-Wo
- 8) Wai-Lee
- 9) Yat-Fan
- 10) Mun-Kit
- 11) Yen-Mah
- 12) Ho-Kwan
- 13) Kwai-Hing
- 14) Man-Wai
- 15) Kar-Mei
- 16) Yuk-Yin
- 17) Chun-Chi
- 18) Fung-Ying
- 19) Lei-Kuan
- 20) Ai-Kyeu

HK/CANTONESE MALE GIVEN NAMES

- 1) Si-Yan
- 2) Ming-Yueng
- 3) Ying-Yen
- 4) Yan-Lung
- 5) Chi-Ping
- 6) Kwok-cheung
- 7) Shu-Kwan
- 8) Si-Hang
- 9) Sui-Lung
- 10) Siu-Kwong
- 11) Yat-Ngok
- 12) Chun-Ying
- 13) Yok-Sing
- 14) Yiu-Tong
- 15) Cheung-Sing
- 16) Kwok-Po
- 17) Yeh-Kwong
- 18) Che-Hung
- 19) Kin-Tung
- 20) Hung-Ling

Chinese

ANGLO NAMES

Many Chinese people have adopted or been given English names, especially those living abroad, those living in Hong Kong or Macao, and those who regularly interact with Westerners. Usually, the names chosen are common, somewhat old-fashioned, and diminutive (often ending in “-y” or “-ie”) Anglo-American names, so they sound ultra-Anglo, even more Anglo than the Anglos. Hence the prevalence of Jackie, Jay, Faye, Sammi, Jimmy, Kelly, Johnny, Tony, Andy, etc. The names of Chinese people born on foreign soil (and, thus, native citizens of non-Chinese countries) are not always so cutesy, but Chinese parents do seem to pick names that are especially common and familiar, trying to stand out as little as possible.

COMMON FEM. HK ENGLISH NAMES

- 1) Selina
- 2) Sarah
- 3) Denise
- 4) Kelly
- 5) Samantha / Sammy
- 6) Connie
- 7) Stephanie
- 8) Cecilia
- 9) Vivian
- 10) Maggie
- 11) Teresa
- 12) Ella
- 13) Sandy
- 14) Tiffany
- 15) Karen
- 16) Janice
- 17) Sally
- 18) Isabella
- 19) Mandy
- 20) Rachel

COMMON MALE HK ENGLISH NAMES

- 1) Donald / Donny
- 2) Henry
- 3) Michael
- 4) Joseph / Joe
- 5) Patrick
- 6) Stephen
- 7) Andrew / Andy
- 8) Charles / Charley
- 9) Ronald / Ronny
- 10) David
- 11) Victor
- 12) William
- 13) Jackie / Jacky
- 14) John / Johnny
- 15) Daniel / Danny
- 16) Eason
- 17) Edison
- 18) Aaron
- 19) Anthony / Tony
- 20) Nicolas

Aztec / Nahuatl

Compiled by Jason Morningstar

NOBLE, PRIEST AND JAGUAR KNIGHT

- 1) Cuetzpalli / lizard
- 2) Cipactli / crocodile
- 3) Xochipepe / flower-gatherer
- 4) Cuixtli / kite
- 5) Yaotl / warrior
- 6) Matlalihuitl / purple feather
- 7) Acamapichtli / handful of reeds
- 8) Itzcoatl / obsidian snake
- 9) Chimalpopoca / smoking shield
- 10) Nochehuatl / consistent
- 11) Coatl / snake
- 12) Quauhtli / eagle
- 13) Izel / unique
- 14) Citlalmina / arrow stars; meteorites
- 15) Xiuhcoatl / fire serpent
- 16) Cipactli / alligator
- 17) Itz / obsidian
- 18) Miquiztli / death
- 19) Yayauhqui / black smoking mirror
- 20) Xipil / noble of the fire

LADY, PRIESTESS, AND SORCERESS

- 1) Cihuaton / little woman
- 2) Xochicotzin / little necklace
- 3) Coaxoch / serpent flower
- 4) Quetzalxochitl / precious flower
- 5) Tlanextli / radiance and majesty
- 6) Tlexictli / fire navel
- 7) Teoxihuitl / precious and divine
- 8) Tonalnan / mother of light
- 9) Xochiyotl / heart of a gentle flower
- 10) Yolihuani / source of life
- 11) Yoloxochitl / flower of the heart
- 12) Xiloxoch / calliandra flower
- 13) Miyaoaxochitl / maize tassel
- 14) Eloxochitl / magnolia
- 15) Xochiquetzal / most beautiful flower
- 16) Azcalxochitzin / ant flower
- 17) Quiauhxochitl / rain flower
- 18) Tziquetzalpoztectzin / broken plume
- 19) Mizquixauhal / mesquite face paint
- 20) Citlalmina / female hero

POCHTECA AND MACEHUALLI

- 1) Moquihuix / drunkard
- 2) Xocoyotl / youngest child
- 3) Malinalxochitl / grass flower
- 4) Nezahualcoyotl / hungry coyote
- 5) Tochtli / rabbit
- 6) Matlal / dark green
- 7) Mazatl / deer
- 8) Tlalli / earth
- 9) Necahual / survivor; left-behind
- 10) Nezahual / hungry
- 11) Tlazotzin / one who is loved
- 12) Ocelotl / ocelot
- 13) Nochtli / prickly pear cactus
- 14) Ozomatli / monkey
- 15) Tecpatl / flint knife
- 16) Tepetl / mountain
- 17) Itzcuintli / dog
- 18) Tlantli / teeth
- 19) Ixcatzin / like cotton
- 20) Malinalli / grass

Aztec / Nahuatl

GENERIC NAMES 1

- 1) Achcauhtli / leader
- 2) Ahuiliztli / joy
- 3) Cualli / good
- 4) Etalpalli / wing
- 5) Eztli / blood
- 6) Ichtaca / secret
- 7) Icnoyotl / friendship
- 8) Ilhuitl / day
- 9) Itotia / dance
- 10) Iuitl / feather
- 11) Amoxtli / book
- 12) Atl / water
- 13) Chicahua / strong
- 14) Chipahua / clean
- 15) Citlalli / star
- 16) Ixtli / face
- 17) Mahuizoh / glorious person
- 18) Manauia / defend
- 19) Mecatl / glorious lineage
- 20) Meztli / moon

FEMALE COMMONER

- 1) Teyacapan / first born
- 2) Xoco / youngest sister
- 3) Tlaco / middle-born
- 4) Teicuih / younger sister
- 5) Cozamalotl / rainbow
- 6) Tepin / little one
- 7) Zeltzin / delicate
- 8) Tlacotl / twig
- 9) Mazatl / deer
- 10) Acatl / reed
- 11) Coszcatl / jewel
- 12) Xochitl / flower
- 13) Chalchiuitl / emerald
- 14) Cuicatl / song
- 15) Xocoyotl / youngest child
- 16) Tlacoehua / middle one
- 17) Eleuia / wish
- 18) Nenetl / doll
- 19) Noxochicoztli / necklace of flowers
- 20) Papan / flag

GENERIC NAMES 2

- 1) Momoztli / altar
- 2) Moyolehuani / enamored one
- 3) Nahuatl / four waters
- 4) Nelli / truth
- 5) Nochtli / prickly pear fruit
- 6) Yolotli / heart
- 7) Ohtli / road
- 8) Patli / medicine
- 9) Tenoch / stone pillar
- 10) Tlachinolli / fire
- 11) Atl / water
- 12) Toltecatl / artist
- 13) Xihuitl / comet
- 14) Zolin / quail
- 15) Yolyamanitzin / considerate person
- 16) Centehua / only one
- 17) Xiuhtonal / precious light
- 18) Yoltzin / small heart
- 19) Cozcaquauhtli / vulture
- 20) Ehecatl / wind

Aztec / Nahuatl

FOOD AND DRINK

- 1) Bean and squash stew with chili and tomato
- 2) Acocils, small and abundant shrimp of Lake Texcoco
- 3) Cakes of spirulina algae
- 4) Maguey, agave nectar and liquor
- 5) Honey water, honey comb, and other apiary products
- 6) Pulque, a fermented beverage with an alcoholic content equivalent to beer
- 7) Atole, a thick drink made of flavored ground corn and water
- 8) Maguey worm and avacado
- 9) Xocolatl, a frothy and bitter chocolate beverage
- 10) Hairless dog in highly seasoned stew
- 11) Turkey, pheasant, local partridge, marsh bird, and duck, and their eggs
- 12) Venison, wild boar, hare and rabbit
- 13) Fruit in great abundance - mango, papaya, tamarind, guava
- 14) Tlaxcalli cakes kneaded with eggs
- 15) Tamales made of maize flowers with ground amaranth seeds and cherries added
- 16) Stew with amaranth, beans, squash, tomatoes, pads of nopal cactus and chiles
- 17) Mushrooms, wild greens, sweet potato and tubers of all sorts
- 18) Ants, grasshoppers, crickets and grubs eaten raw or cooked
- 19) Sweet and delicious lake fish, as well as ocean fish
- 20) Salamanders, shrimps, frogs, water snakes, and larvae

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