

Name

## Chinese Syllables

Chinese syllables usually contain three parts: an initial (like **g**, **k**, or **h**), a final that contains at least one vowel (for example, **a**, **ao**, or **ing**), and a tone marking.



Pinyin syllable for 名 (míng), which means **name**.

## Initial Sounds

Pinyin letters **b**, **p**, **m**, **f** are pronounced similarly to sounds in English.

bā

八 (as in "spaghetti")

Name

pò

破 (as in "park")

míng

名 (as in "mother")

fàn

饭 (as in "father")

## Chinese Names

In Chinese, the family name comes first, followed by the given name (or what we might call **first name** in English). In the example below, 李 (Lǐ) is the family name and 华 (Huá) is the given name.



你叫什么？

(Nǐ jiào shénme?) What's your name?



李华。

(Lǐ Huá.) Hua Li.

It is common in China for people to call each other by their family names. To ask someone's family name, you can use 姓 (xìng).



Name



李。

(Lǐ.) Li.

## Asking Questions with 呢 (ne)

**呢** (ne) is used at the end of a sentence to ask things like **And you?** or **What about her?** It normally answers a question that's just been asked while directing the question to someone else.



你叫什么？

(Nǐ jiào shénme?) What's your name?

我叫多儿，**你呢？**(Wǒ jiào Duō ér, **nǐ ne?**) My name is Duo. **And you?**