

## Re: How do Japanese learn names ?

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Sharptongue wrote:

<snip>the only way to be sure of the correct pronunciation is to ask the person concerned

Yes. Its a pretty good conversation starter actually.

The point I am making here is that even a highly educated Japanese can struggle with reading kanji names. So how do ordinary Japanese cope with this, or is it not seen as much of an issue ?

It isn't really an issue. If you hear a name, you start wondering how they write it, and ask. If you read a name, you start wondering how they read it, and ask. Its kinda fun, and the Japanese around me seem to enjoy it more. Hardly anyone in Sydney pronounces my simple 2 syllable name correctly on first attempt, and other than the Irish mafia nobody manages it in Japan period.

Which leads to a further question. Quite a lot of gaijin manage to reach fluency in Japanese, both living inside and outside Japan. At some stage, these people must encounter and master the reading of kanji names. How do they do it ? Are there particular schools of thought which have systematic approaches ? Or is it just straight familiarity and memorization ?

Familiarity and memorization gets you so far, so you learn most of the surnames easily, and then some of the more common given names, and then there is guesswork, but mostly it comes down to asking (or in my case reading the furigana they write on the resumes they send me or any romaji in the email address. I can do without the photo, but have to have the furigana for the given name).