

Pronunciation Notes

This is a rough guide that will help you to get a feel of how the names are pronounced in Japanese.

All syllables are stressed equally (although English spelling sometimes makes a double syllable look like a single one).

e.g. Mariko = Ma-ri-ko (not Ma-REE-ko)

Vowel sounds

a as in father

e as in pet

i as in fit

o as in boat

u as in hood

Two often confused consonants

g as in gate

j as in judge

Names

Here are some of the names spelt out phonetically.

Please bear in mind that although the sounds may look long as I have written them out, each syllable is short, not extended, so they should sound a little choppy. Once again, the syllables are equally weighted

Oshima: oh-she-mah

Adachi: ah-da-chee

Sato: sah-toh

Nakajima: nah-kah-jee-mah

Waka: wah-kah

Sano: sah-noh

Ito: ee-toh

Nori: noh-ree

Fusae: fuh-sigh

Akagi: ah-kah-ghee

Shirai: she-rye

Sugita: suh-ghee-tah

Murata: moo-rah-tah

Depending on where you're from, you may pronounce some of these vowels a little differently from me, but I hope this will give you a good idea of how these words sound. (I simplified the *ae* and *ai* sounds, but I'm sure no-one is really worried about that).