

N A M E S - F A M I L Y S I Z E - O R I G I N - C E N T E R A D D R E S S
 O F A L L E V A C U E E F A M I L I E S
 A T F R E S N O A S S E M B L Y C E N T E R

All Japanese names, with few exceptions, end in a vowel. They have a *rhythm* and flow with a poetry like constancy of syllables. Unlike our American names, every syllable in Japanese names, with rare exceptions, ends in a vowel. Usually they are pronounced with uniform accent on each syllable and added emphasis on the ending vowel.

When you accurately pronounce the names they flow in a smooth *rhythm* off the tongue.

You can enunciate them best with only slight use of the lips. Talking within the cavity of your mouth while the lips are scarcely parted, helps.

In most cases Japanese names have a vowel between every consonant. The use of double consonants is limited almost entirely to ch-sh-ts and nn. The use of double vowels seems to be generally confined to ii-ai-ao-*oi* ui and ou.

Among the Fresno Assembly Center residents we almost never found a Japanese name that included the letters L or P in the spelling. The only exceptions to this were the given or adopted American first names of some of the U.S. born, 2nd generation youth.

The 1942 Directory of residents within Fresno Assembly Center reveals that only six family names were ^{exceptions} to the rule of ending in a vowel and they ended in n or k.

"Yamamoto" which was the Japanese equivalent of "Jones" in the U.S. led the last name list with nineteen families registered under that family name at the Fresno Assembly Center. "Watanabe" the Japanese counterpart of the American name of "Smith" was down the list with only ten. "Tanaka", "Nakagawa" and "Sasaki" were tied for second most popular name with each name represented by fourteen families. "Taniguchi", "Yamada" and "Nakamura" followed in that order. Tongue twisters like Marubayashi and Machigashira contrasted with names like Ono and Nii.

The letter of the alphabet most used as the first letter in last names was K. The frequency for use of letters in the alphabet as beginnings for last names was as follows.

K-230	S-162	O-100	W-27	C-6
T-187	Y-140	A-71	D-18	J-4
M-166	H-121	F-56	G-10	B-R-Z-1
N-166	I-102	U-31	E-9	L-P-Q-V-X-0