



#SayMyName

#SayMyName is based on 2021 research from the University of Warwick
<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/law/research/projects/saymyname/research>

This resource sheet has been collated by Knowledge and Library Services.

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The Importance of Correct Name Pronunciation

Inclusive Employers explain why correct name pronunciation is so important, with real life experiences, tips on pronouncing names correctly, and advice on how to correct someone who gets your name wrong. www.inclusiveemployers.co.uk/blog/understanding-the-importance-of-name-pronunciation/

Warwick University have a video explaining why it's so important to respect people's names and try to pronounce them correctly.

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/law/research/projects/saymyname/library/resourcepack/#a11>

Are you a Fumble Mumbler? An Arrogant Mangler? A Calibrator? Or an Evader?

This powerful 2019 TedTalk from Gerardo Ochoa explains the differences in **Getting it right; why pronouncing names correctly matters**

www.ted.com/talks/gerardo_ochoa_getting_it_right_why_pronouncing_names_correctly_matters

Srivastava, R. (2023) '**Want to be culturally sensitive? Start by saying my name right**', The Guardian, 31 January. Available at: www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/feb/01/want-to-be-culturally-sensitive-start-with-saying-my-name-right

Gonzalez, J. (2014) '**How we pronounce student names, and why it matters**', Cult of Pedagogy blog, 14th April. Available at: www.cultofpedagogy.com/gift-of-pronunciation/

Namecoach (2024) **The impact of incorrect name pronunciations**. Available at: <https://cloud.name-coach.com/the-impact-of-incorrect-name-pronunciations/>

Try this quick eye-opener from last year's Race Equality Week- **Do you pronounce everyone's name correctly? So what if you don't?**

www.ruh.nhs.uk/media/news_homepage/documents/Race_Equality_Week_Day_3.pdf

And finally this 2017 TedTalk from Toluwanimi Obiwole explains why **Your name is your crown, so wear it**. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lo863ePY86Y>

How to pronounce names correctly

The excellent [SayMyName resource pack](https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/law/research/projects/saymyname/library/resourcepack) from Warwick University

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/law/research/projects/saymyname/library/resourcepack> includes fabulous infographics on how to respect names including in meetings and with students. It includes a guide to international names includes advice on how to improve your knowledge and understanding of others' names, including naming conventions and guides to pronunciation for countries including Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, China, Japan, Greece, Spain, Italy and Poland.

[#Mynameis from Race Equality Matters](https://mynameis.raceequalitymatters.com/) offers a tool to translate a name into phonetic spelling or hear how what spelling sounds like. There's also a social media tile to use with the phonetic spelling of your own name. <https://mynameis.raceequalitymatters.com/>

Tulshyan, R. '[If you don't know how to say someone's name, just ask](https://hbr.org/2020/01/if-you-dont-know-how-to-say-someones-name-just-ask)', Harvard Business Review, 9th January. Available at: <https://hbr.org/2020/01/if-you-dont-know-how-to-say-someones-name-just-ask>

This list of 7 simple steps on [How to get it right](#) is from Race Equality Matters

- 1 Ask the person to pronounce it - and actively listen.** Rather than try to say a name you are unfamiliar with, ask the person how to pronounce it.
- 2 Don't make it a big deal.** Once you have heard the correct pronunciation, thank them and move on. Don't focus on how unfamiliar you are with their name.
- 3 Observe and practice.** Make an effort to hear how someone pronounces their name to other people, even if you have heard it before. Check if you are introducing them in a public forum and practice.
- 4 Clarify again.** If you meet someone again after a while it's fine to check how you should pronounce their name.
- 5 Do something when you realise you've been mispronouncing it.** Apologize when you get it wrong, as soon as you realise.
- 6 Be an ally.** If you hear someone mispronouncing a colleague's name, when they are not around, step in and correct them gently.
- 7 Don't be arrogant or flip.** If you hear someone mispronouncing a colleague's name, when they are not around, step in and correct them gently.

See more at:

www.raceequalitymatters.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/MyNames-Guide-V2.pdf

Torres, M. (2022) [What not to say when you don't know how to pronounce a co-worker's name.](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/dont-know-how-to-pronounce-name-what-not-to-say_l_61f96f24e4b02de5f51edd25) Available at: www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/dont-know-how-to-pronounce-name-what-not-to-say_l_61f96f24e4b02de5f51edd25

[How to pronounce](https://www.howtopronounce.com/) is a crowdsourced pronunciation dictionary, with names as well as lots of other words spoken by native speakers. www.howtopronounce.com/

Tired of having your name mispronounced? Help colleagues to get it right!

[Set up an audio name badge](#) to attach to emails, or your online presence, using the guidance from the #SayMyName research project

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/law/research/projects/saymyname/library/pilotinstructions>

[Download a name card](#) to help others get it right in meetings or training events.

The appendix of the Race Equality Matters [My Name Is](#) guide gives examples and options for [writing out your name phonetically](#) at www.raceequalitymatters.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/MyNames-Guide-V2.pdf

The healthcare perspective

To read details of a workshop examining the importance and historical context to name pronunciation, tools and name affirmation techniques in a medical education session try Dali, S. et al. (2022) '[Say my name: understanding the power of names, correct pronunciation, and personal narratives](#)', MedEdPortal, 18, 11284. Available at: https://doi.org/10.15766/mep_2374-8265.11284

In 2019 Jonathan Glass wrote about the importance of finding out who is in front of you, not just the pathology you're encountering, including the importance of names. '[Knowing our patients: it's all in the detail](#)', BMJ 366,i4553. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.l4553>

Torjesen, I. (2022) '[How do I deal with a colleague who keeps pronouncing my name incorrectly?](#)', BMJ, 377. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.o1272>



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