

**How to  
respect my  
ethnic  
name.**



@AnpuLondon

# Things you should **NEVER** say

1

**"I'm never going to remember that"**

Sometimes the name can be hard to say but you're being dismissive and showing that you don't value the person

2

**"Do you have something shorter for that?"**

Let them offer their nickname to you first. If they don't, then don't probe for a shorter version of their name.

3

**"Can I just call you \_\_\_\_ instead?"**

This is disrespectful because you are disregarding an entire person's history and identity by giving them a different name. There's also an uncomfortable power dynamic.



@AnpuLondon

# **Equally inappropriate actions**

**4**

**Tapping the person  
on the shoulder  
because you'd  
rather not get their  
name wrong**

**5**

**Pointing to them in  
a meeting**

**6**

**Replacing their name with 'him, her,  
them' and hoping you'll get away  
with it**

**@AnpuLondon**



# How to help

1

## **Repeat their name after they introduce themselves**

When you don't repeat their name, it can be quite frustrating because we would like reassurance that you've heard and can say it correctly.

2

## **Reassure them**

"I really want to make sure I say your name correctly, can you teach me?"

3

## **Emails + Business**

Incorrect names on a legal document is time consuming to correct for the person. This distracts from more important tasks. Double check the name when writing an email.



# How to help

**4**

## **Dating**

Help your loved one out by teaching your friends and family the pronunciation in advance to avoid any awkward encounters.

**5**

## **Call others out**

If you hear someone's name being said wrong and they're not in the room, then please do correct them.

**6**

## **'Forgive me, could you remind me...'**

Politely ask for a reminder. Look, I understand. I'm awful with everyone's names too to be honest because I'm far too nervous about meeting someone new and I don't hear their name, let alone how to pronounce it.

**Here's a good tip: jot down the pronunciation in your notepad in a way that you will remember!**



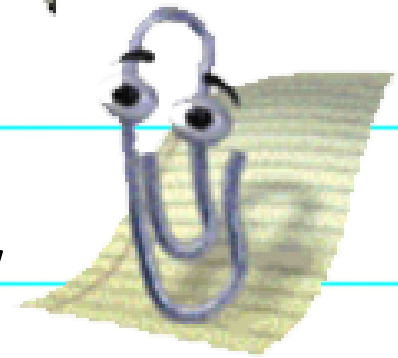
@AnpuLondon

Dear Susan,

But what's your  
real name?

OK

Dear Shuai Yingchun,



**Don't immediately disregard someone's integrity by asking 'but what's your real name though?'.**

If they're a good friend, then it may be special for you to enquire more about their heritage and background, but it's all about the tone and energy you bring to the question. If you've just met them and you're asking to have a laugh, that's just plain rude.

# Why is it so hard?



**Basically, when you try and write a name from another language, sometimes it can't be transliterated accurately because the letters for a particular sound doesn't exist.**

Yeah, you're probably having to create sounds you probably didn't even know that existed!

Transliteration is the process of converting one written script into another written script, such as Hebrew characters into the Latin alphabet

Mohammed can be spelt in several ways in the Roman alphabet, Only the consonants M-h-m-d appear in the written version of Perso-Arabic scripts.

**Mohamid, Mohamad,  
Muhamad, Mohamed,  
Muhammad, Mihemed,  
Mahomet, Muhamed,**

**SPELL MY NAME  
CORRECTLY**

**Anpu, Anbu**

**Nicholas, Nickolas,  
Nicolas, Nikolas**

**Tristan, Tristen, Tristian, Tristin,  
Triston, Trystan**

**Tingzhe**

**Dingxiang**

**Charlie, Charli, Charlee,  
Charly, Charleigh**

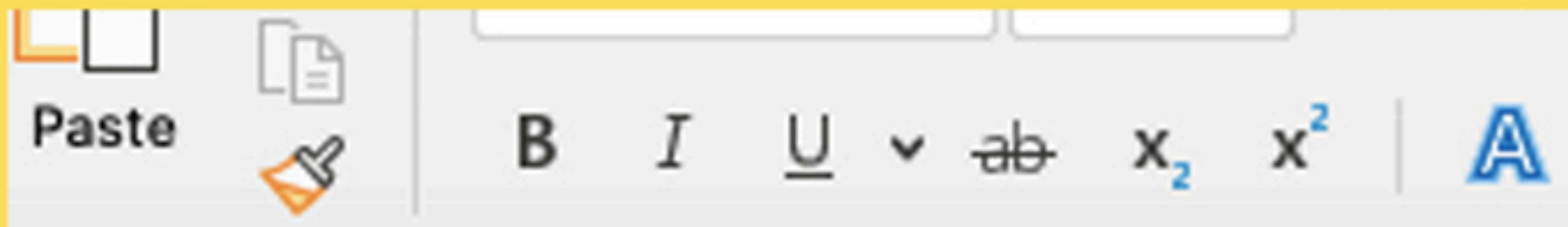
**Makayla, Mckayla,  
Michaela, Mikaela,  
Mikayla**

**Bolade**

**Olawumi**

@AnpuLondon





Mary  
Jack  
Timothy  
James  
Rachel  
Lucy  
Charles  
Elizabeth  
Daniel  
Tom  
Samuel  
Mark

Yazhini  
Chenguang  
Dofi  
Fahmida  
Anpu  
Anjolaifeoluwa  
Asaka  
Fujo  
Onya  
Nguyễn  
Akiharo  
Drahomír

# A heavy history



Colonisation gave rise to a language hierarchy in which the language of the coloniser was inscribed as the most prestigious language (Brenzinger 1992).

Naming practices by European colonizers served to inject a sense of shame and legacy of inferiority. Of **the world's estimated 7,500 languages, over half will be extinct by the year 2050** owing to imperialism (Eames 2019).

European colonizers defiled African names to erase African identity. **Names not only aid in the construction of identity**, but also concretize a people's collective memory by recording the circumstances of their experiences. Thus, to obliterate African collective memories and identities, the colonizers assigned new names to the Africans or even left them nameless, as a way of subjugating and committing them to perpetual servitude (Fitzpatrick 2012).

@AnpuLondon

# **A bit of empowerment:** **Things to say...**

@AnpuLondon

**1**

**"Just to let you know, you're pronouncing my name incorrectly, it's pronounced..."**

**2**

**"I'm sure you'll agree it's best to correct people right away before the wrong pronunciation sticks!"**

**3**

**"Could we spend a few moments practising the pronunciation of my name? I'd love to teach you..."**

**YOUR NAME IS BEAUTIFUL**

