



Chinese Names

- In Chinese, the surname goes before the first name.
- Characters in surnames have lost their original meanings.
- 张 Zhāng, 王 Wáng, 李 Lǐ, 赵 Zhào, 陈 Chén are the top five most commonly used Chinese surnames.
- Chinese first names are often given by the parents or grandparents.
- A Chinese first name has one or two characters.
- The first name often implies meaningful ideas, such as the family's expectations for the child, a significant event, a certain time, etc.

E.g.: Wáng Èrhǔ (èr—the second child, hǔ—tiger, for male)
 Xiè Dōngmèi (dōng—born in winter, mèi—sister, for female)



百家姓 百家姓
 Bǎijiā Xìng

Chinese Surnames

- The book *Surnames of a Hundred Families*, written more than 1,000 years ago, records 438 surnames. Among them, 408 are single-word surnames and 30 are double-word surnames.
- The first surname listed in the book is 赵 Zhào because the surname of the Emperor of Song was 赵.
- More than 100 million people have the surname 张 Zhāng, making it the most popular surname.
- The top ten surnames are Zhāng, Wáng, Lǐ, Zhào, Chén, Yáng, Wú, Liú, Huáng, and Zhōu. They belong to 40% of the Chinese population.