



There is a limited pool of surnames in China so it is possible that you will meet several people with the same name. The most common surnames are Li, Wang, Zhang, Chen and Zhao.

## Dialogue



**Nǐ jiào shénme?**  
(What's your name?)



**Wǒ jiào Lily**

**The Literal Translation**

nǐ            = you  
jiào         = to be called  
shénme?   = what?

## Pronunciation

1st Tone	2nd Tone	3rd Tone	4th Tone	Neutral tone
—	/	∪	\	
a single, constant pitch, almost like you are singing	a rising tone	a dipping tone	an 'angry' tone, abruptly falling in pitch	Neutral tone words are said lightly and without emphasis
	shén	nǐ	jiào	me



### Extension

You can also ask this question including the word 'míngzi' meaning 'name'

- **Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi?** (Lit = you called what name?)  
What is your name?