Indogene Naming Conventions

- Indogene names differ considerably from those of any other species, for one reason: They continually change. On birth, each Indogene is given a birth name (usually very short, gender-neutral, and without meaning—something to distinguish them from their parents and siblings), and this is their only name for the early part of their lives. If (in school, for example) they happen to encounter someone else with their name, they're usually distinguished by number. They first gain a last name when they receive their first implant. Names are tied to implants (and also professions), and are built up throughout an Indogene's life. For this reason, last names tend to be *quite* long.

  In regular day-to-day interactions, Indogene usually go by their first name only, using their last name only when required to do so for official purposes. If necessary, they'll often continue the numbering tradition to distinguish themselves from others with the same given name. Even when titles are used with an Indogene (say the equivalent of "Mr."), the title will be used with the given name, not the last name, as last names are not abbreviated (and are, in fact, rather like a curriculum vita, in many cases). In interacting with aliens that are used to employing last names, though, abbreviations are common, as last names can be quite unruly, otherwise. It's acceptable for an alien to do this, as they don't share the Indogene culture.

  First names can be built up by making use of the following table (note: below the symbol Ø means null [i.e. no consonant]). In order to use the table, start with any consonant of Indojisnen, and find it in the "Onset" column. Follow the arrows and build a word, taking one item from each column. Be sure not to skip over any lines:

Onset	Nucleus	Coda
p, b, k, g, r, m, f, v, h, Ø ➠	*a, i, u* ➠	*t, k, n*
	e, o ➠	Ø
		t, k, n
	ey, ow, oy, ew, ia, io, ie, iu, ua, uo, ue, ui ➠	Ø
		t, k, n
ch, j, ly, ny, sh, zh ➠	*i* ➠	*t, k, n*
	a, o, e, u ➠	Ø

Onset	Nucleus	Coda
		➠ *t, k, n*
n, t, d, l, s, z, ng, y ➠	*a, u*	➠ *t, k, n*
	e, o ➠	➠ ∅
		➠ *t, k, n*
	➠ *ey, ow, oy, ew, ua, uo, ue, ui*	➠ ∅
		➠ *t, k, n*

Here are some sample given names using the table above:

- ***Me***
- ***At***
- ***Uak***
- ***Tew***
- ***Zhat***
- ***Hiu***
- ***Vui***
- ***Gio***
- ***Do***
- ***Oyn***

Again, some of these names may, by chance, mean something, but common practice is *not* to choose names with specific meanings, but rather names that distinguish family members. Some families may have their own traditions, though (so, for example, if a mother and father are named ***Lue*** and ***Lo***, they may choose names for their children that also begin with ***l***, but whose vowels and codas differ).

Last names in Indojisnen will have to be a work in progress. The idea is to have parts of a name correspond precisely to an implant, and, perhaps, career specialization. In order to come up with a system, I'll need to get a list of potential implants and specializations. We have one Indogene, Meh Yewll, who's a doctor. That gives us something to start with. Her first implant, then, would correspond to ***yew***. Her next (or perhaps her specialization) would correspond to ***lunde***. And so on. We'll need a way to approximate how many implants an Indogene will get in their lifetime in order to be able to come up with a list.

In order to give you a better idea what I'm approximating, though, I created a table which one can think of as the beginning of a timeline. On the left, you have an Indogene's first implant. Each one of those, then, has a subset of words which will follow it that will, say, either delimit what type of implant it is, or denote what the purpose of the implant is, or perhaps what career path it sets one on. For example, let's say ***kio*** is the name given to an eye implant. This implant can be tuned to allow one to extend one's vision beyond 1,000 meters or to be able to see extremely fine detail (at the molecular level)—or maybe to enhance the visual spectrum so that things like ultraviolet light and radio waves become visible. Each of those will have a different word associated with: ***kioriada*** for distance vision; ***kiongute*** for detailed vision; and ***kioyago*** for enhanced spectral vision. The words chosen depend entirely on the nature of the implant. And if it happens that this isn't the first implant (but the third or fourth), it will occur in a different place in the name. That, essentially, is how I envision the system working (sample below):

First Implant	Specialization	Second Implant	Specialization
yew	*lunde*	*zon*	*dazhiga*
	kajik		*keri*
	zhak		
	powsu		*ngeno*
	kunya		
kio	*riara*	*rak*	*yanjiru*
	ngute		*dersu*
	yago		
dan	*kende*	*men*	*gai*
	jaru		*iruna*
	heyla		*sarema*
	leri		*zagashi*

In order to expand on the list, though (and to make sense of it), we'll need to know more about Indogene implants. Since Meh Yewll is now a professional doctor, her last name will be quite long. This was my idea for her name:

Me Yewlundenganarizomperismoyekariyuinkochikanyirasnairon

Pending, of course, full explication of what her implants are, what her specializations are, etc. In order to generate last names for the time being, though, all we need to do is come up with a *hypothetical* set of first implants plus a set of specializations and/or second implants which follow the first. From this, we can derive a short name that will be used by all the characters on the show (something like Yewll from the name above). We don't necessarily need to know what any of these will mean, but it'd be nice to eventually know how many there could possibly be, and which kinds. This will serve as a starting point, though (first implants will be listed below, with specializations/second implants following in parentheses):

- ***yew*** (***lunde, kajik, zhak, powsu, kunya***)
- ***kio*** (***riara, ngute, yago***)
- ***dan*** (***kende, jaru, heyla, leri***)
- ***owk*** (***aridu, uringa, uome, ekimbo***)
- ***puot*** (***ewlyi, takshi, ruave, ngami***)
- ***vion*** (***royzhi, nabiru***)
- ***shak*** (***lownu, karina, fuoke, ungiru***)
- ***zoy*** (***nuezga, haminyi, mato***)
- ***fat*** (***arenga, enyui, lankak, umaji***)
- ***tuo*** (***mekma, nyeki, cholu, zhogayo, jemben***)

Here are some possible shortened names from just these elements (with further shortenings given after [not all of which are licit in Indojisnen, but which are licit in English, and are intended for English-speaking characters]):

- ***Yewkaji, Yewka, Yewk***
- ***Kioria, Kiori***
- ***Danhey, Danhe***
- ***Owkuo, Owku, Owk***
- ***Puottak, Puotak, Puotta, Puota, Puot***
- ***Vionnabi, Vionabi, Vionna, Viona, Vion***
- ***Shaklow, Shaklo***
- ***Zoyma, Zoym***
- ***Fatuma, Fatum, Fatu***

- ***Tuozhoga, Tuozho, Tuozh***

And combining these, one should be able to generate a large number of names suitable for English-speakers, even if we haven't worked out the backstories yet. Here are some examples:

- ***Chot Yewzha***
- ***Sha Kiongu***
- ***Gow Danja***
- ***Rey Owkari***
- ***Kik Puotru***
- ***Iat Vionroy***
- ***Tue Shaku***
- ***Sut Zoyha***
- ***E Fatla***
- ***Mok Tuoje***

If more variety is needed in the last names, I can always generate more—even if we haven't assigned meanings yet.

Romanization and Pronunciation:

- The list of phonemes by romanized form is (in alphabetical order): ***a, b, ch, d, dh, e, ew, ey, f, g, gh, h, i, ia, ie, io, iu, j, k, kh, l, ly, m, n, ng, ny, o, ow, oy, p, q, qg, r, s, sh, t, th, u, ua, ue, ui, uo, v, w, y, z, zh*** and ***'***. Should there be need of a dictionary later, though, entries will be listed in standard alphabetical order (so words beginning with both ***s*** and ***sh*** will be found under ***S***).

- The romanization system should be fairly straightforward; there are only a couple wrinkles to keep in mind. The full system is detailed below:

  - ***A, a***: Pronounced like the "a" in "father".

  - ***B, b***: Pronounced like the "b" in "bad".

  - ***Ch, ch***: Pronounced similar to the "ch" in "chalk".

  - ***D, d***: Pronounced like the "d" in "deck".

  - ***Dh, dh***: *Always* pronounced like the "th" in "than"; *never* like the "th" in "thin".

- ***E, e***: *Always* pronounced like the "e" in "get"; *never* like the "a" in "game".

- ***Ew, ew***: Pronounced like the "eyu" in "Atreyu", but much faster (there's no exact equivalent in English).

- ***Ey, ey***: Pronounced like the "a" in "game"; *never* like the "e" in "get".

- ***F, f***: Pronounced like the "f" in "feather".

- ***G, g***: *Always* pronounced like the "g" in "goat" (*never* like the "g" in "genius").

- ***Gh, gh***: Pronounced like the "r" in French "rouge". This is quite a different sound from the English "r". It's pronounced with the back of the tongue trilling against the uvula. It's a throaty, guttural sound, but if one mimics a French accent, one will be able to get it without too much trouble.

- ***H, h***: Pronounced like the "h" in "hop". This sound is *always* pronounced, even if it comes after another consonant, or at the end of a word. The only cases in which it is *not* pronounced is when it occurs in the digraphs ***ch***, ***dh***, ***gh***, ***kh***, ***sh***, ***th*** and ***zh***.

- ***I, i***: Pronounced like the "i" in "machine".

- ***J, j***: Pronounced very close to the "j" in "joke".

- ***K, k***: Pronounced like the "k" in "kite".

- ***Kh, kh***: Pronounced like the "ch" in Scottish "loch". This is a sound that isn't native to English, but can be produced without much difficulty, if one really puts some oomph into it.

- ***L, l***: Pronounced like the "l" in "love" (*never* like the so-called "swallowed" "l" in "filth").

- ***Ly, ly***: Pronounced like the "lli" in "million".

- ***M, m***: Pronounced like the "m" in "matter".

- ***N, n***: Pronounced like the "n" in "never".

- ***Ng, ng***: Pronounced like the "ng" in "sing". This sound *can* occur at the beginning of a word. It takes some practice, but it's doable. Try slowing down your pronunciation of the word "singing", and see if you can separate it into "si" and "nging". *Never* pronounced like the "ng" in "anger"(for which, see ***ngg***).

- ***Ngg, ngg***: Pronounced like the "ng" in "anger" (building off of the previous, think of ***ng*** as a single consonant; to get a [g] sound afterwards there must be another ***g***).

- ***Ny, ny***: Pronounced like the "ni" in "onion" or the initial "N" in an East Coast pronunciation of "New York".

- ***O, o***: *Always* pronounced like the "au" in "caught"; *never* like the "oa" in "coat".

- ***Ow, ow***: Pronounced like the "oa" in "coat"; *never* like the "au" in "caught".

- ***Oy, oy***: Pronounced like the "oy" in "boy".

- ***P, p***: Pronounced like the "p" in "pike".

- ***Q, q***: This is an older consonant of Indojisnen, and is now pronounced just like ***k***, in all places where it occurs.

- ***Qg, qg***: This is an older consonant of Indojisnen, and is now pronounced just like ***g***, in all places where it occurs.

- ***R, r***: Pronounced like the "r" in Spanish "pero". Nearly identical to the "t" or "d" sound in English "matador" (pronounced quickly).

- ***S, s***: Pronounced like the "s" in "sad".

- ***Sh, sh***: Pronounced like the "sh" in "shack".

- ***T, t***: Pronounced like the "t" in "take".

- ***Th, th***: *Always* pronounced like the "th" in "thin"; *never* like the "th" in "than".

- ***U, u***: Pronounced like the "u" in "crude".

- ***V, v***: Pronounced like the "v" in "very".

- ***W, w***: Pronounced like the "w" in "war".

- ***Y, y***: Pronounced like the "y" in "yoke".

- ***Z, z***: Pronounced like the "z" n "zebra".

- ***Zh, zh***: Pronounced like the "z" in "azure". This is the voiced counterpart to ***sh*** above. The following analogy will help to illustrate how it's supposed to be pronounced: ***s*** : ***z*** :: ***sh*** : ***zh***.

- ***'***: This is referred to as a glottal stop, and is pronounced just like the catch in one's throat that occurs in between the "uh" and "oh" in English "uh-oh". This isn't a difficult sound to produce; it just requires a bit of practice to insert it into words. It will occur naturally in a string of vowels pronounced separately in English (e.g. if one were to say "A A A A A A A" [saying the actual name of the letter each time] over and over, a glottal stop will naturally occur before each instance of the vowel). If one simply stops pronouncing the word and starts again, it will naturally occur. (Note: It is important to remember that this apostrophe is ***not*** a stray mark, and ***not*** simply there for decoration. The apostrophe stands for a consonant which has the same status as ***g*** or ***k*** or any other consonant.)

- ***Other Diphthongs***: Those diphthongs not listed above are pronounced as vowel sequences, and their pronunciation should be clear from the spelling. Some examples are as follows: ***ai***, ***ui***, ***ei*** and ***oi***.

- ***Doubled Consonants***: Doubled consonants are pronounced just like their singleton counterparts, but are held for twice as long.

Stress:

- Words are stressed uniformly on the first syllable of the word, where the first two syllables are short, or where the first syllable is heavy. If the first syllable is short and the second heavy, stress will be on the second syllable of the word. (Note, though, that the final consonant of the word is extrametrical.)

Phonotactics:

- All content words will be at least two morae long. This means that a content word that is one syllable long must either end in a consonant or have a diphthong (or what was once a diphthong, meaning that a word with simply ***e*** or ***o*** as its vowel is a licit content word). A maximum nucleus will contain a diphthong and one coda

consonant. Indojisnen only allows a small set of sounds to occur word-finally. A word may end in ***a***, ***i***, ***u***, ***t***, ***k*** or ***n***. Exceptions are made for words ending in ***e*** or ***o*** that were originally the sequences ***ai*** and ***au***. A word-internal syllable, though, may end in just about any consonant or vowel. Native onsets are restricted to a single consonant, though borrowing has introduced polyconsonantal onsets (in addition to foreign coda consonants and consonant clusters).

- A nasal consonant (***n***, ***ny***, ***ng***, or ***m***) will assimilate totally in place to a following consonant. Similarly, a fricative will assimilate to a preceding (but *not* to a following) nasal in manner, meaning that a cluster like ***ms*** will actually become ***nt***.

- A stop or fricative will devoice when occurring next to a voiceless stop or fricative.

- Outside of the first two syllables, diphthongs simplified radically over the years. In syllables outside of the first two, diphthongs simplified in the following ways: ***oy*** became ***ey***; ***eu*** became ***ow***; ***ia***, ***io***, ***ie*** became ***a***, ***o*** and ***e***, respectively, but caused palatalization of the previous consonant; ***ua***, ***uo*** and ***ue*** became ***a***, ***o*** and ***e*** respectively.

- Word-finally, ***e*** and ***o*** raise to ***i*** and ***u***, respectively. They return to their original qualities when a suffix is added.

- When occurring outside of the first two syllables, ***d*** becomes ***r*** in between two vowels.

- When occurring outside of the first two syllables, nasal-voiced stop sequences reduce to simply a nasal. Thus, ***mb***, ***nd***, ***nj*** and ***nng*** become ***m***, ***n***, ***ny*** and ***ng***, respectively.

- The consonant ***y*** disappeared before the vowel ***i***, as did ***ly*** when preceded by ***a*** or ***u***, resulting in VV clusters. This sound change is blocked if ***lyi*** is preceded by a two vowel sequence. Additionally, sequences of ***yiV*** were simplified to ***yV***. These changes occurred *after* the simplification of diphthongs outside of the first two syllables of the word.

- When affixation would produce a triconsonantal cluster, the final consonant of the word to which the suffix has been added is deleted (hence ***indojin*** + ***-snen*** = ***indojisnen***).

- When two stops occur consecutively, the first assimilates in place totally to the second. However, bear in mind that a stop will devoice next to another. Thus, a consonant cluster like ***tg*** will actually be pronounced ***kk***.