

Yanga Kayang Naming Conventions

- Proper names in Yanga Kayang follow a particular form. Each name has three elements. The first is a noun class marker that agrees with the second element, which is a noun (they differ by gender, but many nouns chosen for feminine names end in *i*, while masculine names tend to end in *a* or a consonant). The third is the individual's mother's given name preceded by one of two prefixes: *Ngi-* for feminine names and *Ha-* for masculine names (note: when these prefixes attach to words beginning with a vowel, a glottal stop is inserted between the two vowels). In order to produce a correct name, one will have to know the class of the nominal element of the name. When used by aliens, the noun class marker will likely be left off.

Names	Singular	Plural
Class I	<i>ingga</i>	<i>inya</i>
Class II	<i>gingya</i>	
Class III	<i>gyangga</i>	<i>zhanya</i>
Class IV	<i>ingga</i>	<i>inya</i>
Class V		

Here are some defined nouns/names from which to choose a Liberata's given name. Note that Class I names are reserved for women, and Class II names are reserved for men (the other classes can go either way, save where specified):

- **Class I:** *Akhaakshi* (one who runs); *Izhikshi* (one who sings); *Kalikshi* (one who floats); *Hinyakshi* (one who dances); *Gli'iishikshi* (one who is kind); *Gyanyikshi* (one who is beautiful); *Anga'i* (woman's name); *Liki* (woman's name); *Nga'i* (woman's name); *Yagyi* (woman's name).
- **Class II:** *Akhaangga* (one who runs); *Girangga* (one who walks); *Qagingga* (one who stands); *Khigyangga* (one who counts); *Gyanyingga* (one who is handsome); *Igyarangga* (one who is strong); *Anga'ya* (man's name); *Haagyga* (man's name); *Nga'ya* (man's name); *Aganggra* (man's name).
- **Class III:** *Kanyiki* (type of flower); *Aliihi* (type of flower); *Gii'ik* (type of tree); *Rashihi* (type of tree); *Shihara* (s/he of the river); *Gyigaanggra* (s/he of the mountain); *Haagrara* (s/he of the field); *Izhinyara* (he of the sky [masculine

name]); *Nyakyira* (s/he of the valley); *Igyishiira* (she of the star [feminine name]).

- Class IV: *Galingigyi* (one like gold); *Iranggagy* (one like cobalt); *Kaagikagyi* (one like copper); *Ahigigy* (one like titanium); *Hanygyaaligy* (one like iron); *Kyaihigy* (one like silver); *Ai'ingigy* (one like platinum); *Shikyika* (gem); *Gyiraki* (feather [feminine name]); *Ka'aanga* (diamond [masculine name]).
- Class V: *Liqiya* (one like a building block/brick); *Gyaagigya* (one like mortar/glue [used for industrial purposes]); *Arginyaya* (one like paper/parchment); *Gangazha* (one like a wall); *Haaikanya* (one like a roof); *Iranggaaya* (one like a shield); *Kigra* (spade/shovel); *Gaiga* (light [electric]); *Angaa'a* (bark [masculine name]); *Ikki* (sheen [feminine name]).

Here are some fully-formed Liberata names (using the examples listed above). Remember that these are of the form: (1) class title; (2) given name; (3) matronymic (last name):

- *Ingga Likyi Ngikalikshi* (female)
- *Gingya Nga'ya Hayagy* (male)
- *Gyangga Aliihi Ngikanyiki* (female)
- *Ingga Ka'aanga Ha'izhikshi* (male)
- *Ingga Ikki Ngigyiraki* (female)
- *Ingga Hinyakshi Ngigli'iishikshi* (female)
- *Gingya Igyarangga Ha'iranggagy* (male)
- *Gyangga Izhinyara Ha'anga'i* (male)
- *Ingga Kyaihigy Ngigyanyikshi* (female)
- *Ingga Gyaagigya Harashihi* (male)

Aliens will probably only use the given name to refer to a Liberata. Nicknames can be formed from any given name by taking the stressed syllable followed by the next syllable. If a long vowel is present in either syllable, that vowel is shortened. If a coda consonant is present, there are two options: (1) the coda consonant is left in place, or (2) the coda consonant is deleted. This strategy generally isn't used with names that are disyllabic. Below are some examples of full given names followed by their nicknames:

- *Aliihi* > *Lih*
- *Hinyakshi* > *Nyakshi, Nyashi*
- *Izhinyara* > *Nyara*

- *Kyaihigyi* > *Higyi*
- *Ai'ingigyi* > *Ngigyi*
- *Girangga* > *Rangga, Raga*
- *Anga'i* > *Nga'i*
- *Nyakyira* > *Kyira*
- *Gli'iishikshi* > *Shikshi, Shishi*
- *Haagrara* > *Grara*

Another nickname strategy is to take the first syllable of a name and double it. Long vowels are included in the reduplicant, but coda consonants are not. When two vowels come next to one another, they're separated by a glottal stop. This strategy is more informal, as many nicknames formed using this strategy will sound identical. Here are some examples:

- *Aliihi* > *A'a*
- *Liki* > *Lili*
- *Izhinyara* > *I'i*
- *Kyaihigyi* > *Kyaikyai*
- *Ai'ingigyi* > *Ai'ai*
- *Girangga* > *Gigi*
- *Khigyangga* > *Khikhi*
- *Nyakyira* > *Nyanya*
- *Gli'iishikshi* > *Gligli*
- *Haagrara* > *Haahaa*

I've supplied 50 possible names above, and can produce different ones, if needed. If you'd like to generate names on your own, then all you need to do is follow the phonotactic rules of Yanga Kayang (e.g. names can only end in *k*, *kh*, *r* or *ng*, etc.), and follow the rules of name formation given above. They won't have meanings, necessarily, but not all names need to have meanings (in the present), and if meanings are wanted, we can supply them later. Just be sure to check with me to make sure the names are phonologically well-formed. To assist you, there are two types of names: (1) Names that are simple nouns, and (2) names that mean something like "one who does *x*" or "one who is like *x*". For names falling into category (2), here are the suffixes (as they apply to the different noun classes):

- Class I: *-kshi* (after vowels); *-gzhi* (after *ng* or *r*); *-ikshi* (after other consonants).
- Class II: *-ngga* (after vowels); *-angga* (after consonants).
- Class III: *-ra* (after vowels, *g*, *r*, *ngg*, *gy*, and *zh*); *-ara* (after other consonants).
- Class IV: *-gyi* (after vowels, *r* and *ny*); *-igyi* (after other consonants).

- Class V: *-ya* (causes palatal mutation; see "Phonotactics" for more information).

As the Liberata are also in contact with other aliens, they may also borrow names. In such case, male names become Class II and female names become Class I. When names are borrowed, sounds will change. Here's a general guide for how sounds will change (ask if there's ever a question):

- Sounds like "w", "l", "r", "gh", "v", "dh" > *r*
- Sounds like "p", "t" > *k*
- Sounds like "b", "d" > *g*
- Sounds like "f", "th" > *kh*
- Sounds like "s", "sh" > *sh*
- Sounds like "z", "zh" > *zh*
- Sounds like "e", "a", "o", "u" > *a*

Other changes should be more or less obvious.

Finally, for Liberata that are orphans or whose mothers aren't known to them (or perhaps who don't wish to be associated any longer with their mothers or their mothers' families), there is a general matronymic (last name) that's used. It still differs based on gender, though, so the names are: *Hagi* (for men) and *Ngigi* (for women). The word *gi* is the first person pronoun, and so, in effect, the names mean something like "Son of Myself" and "Daughter of Myself", respectively.

Romanization and Pronunciation:

- The list of phonemes by romanized form is (in alphabetical order): *a, aa, aai, ai, g, gy, h, i, ii, k, kh, ky, l, ng, ny, r, sh, y, zh, '.* Should there be need of a dictionary later, though, entries will be listed in standard alphabetical order (so words beginning with both *k* and *kh* will be found under *K*).
- 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 "o" in "pot" in stressed positions. In unstressed positions, pronounced like the "a" in "soa".
 - *Aa, aa*: Pronounced like the "a" in "father", but held for two beats. (To approximate this difference, consider the "o" in "bot" and the "o" in "bod". Notice how the "o" in "bod" is noticeably longer than the "o" in "bot"? The same distinction exists between *a* and *aa*.)

- *Ai, ai*: Pronounced like the "i" in "nice".
- *Aai, aai*: Pronounced like the "i" in "bide". (Notice how the "i" in "bide" is noticeably longer than the "i" in "nice". The same distinction exists between *ai* and *aai*.)
- *Ch, ch*: This letter is no longer used in Irathient. Please see *Ky* below.
- *G, g*: *Always* pronounced like the "g" in "goat" (*never* like the "g" in "genius").
- *Gy, gy*: Pronounced very close to the "j" in "joke", but with a slight difference. It'll be fine enough to pronounce it like English "j", but to give the effect of a slightly different alien accent, the place of articulation is identical to that of English "y". The result is a "j" sound that sounds a little more palatal (kind of like a very hard "y").
- *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 syllable. The only cases in which it is *not* pronounced is when it occurs in the digraphs *kh, ky, sh* and *zh*.
- *I, i*: Pronounced like the "i" in "machine" in stressed positions. In unstressed positions, pronounced like the "i" in "kit" or the "e" in "chicken".
- *J, j*: This letter is no longer used in Irathient. Please see *Gy* above.
- *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 too much difficulty, if one really puts some oomph into it.
- *Ky, ky*: Pronounced similar to the "ch" in "chalk", but further back. Sounds rather like "ky", pronounced quickly.
- *L, l*: Pronounced like the "l" in "milk". This is a different sound from the "l" in "lot": it's "swallowed", and is made with the back of the tongue, as opposed to the front.
- *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".
- *Q, q*: Pronounced like the "q" in Arabic "Iraq". This sound is similar to the "c" in "caught", but pronounced *much* farther back in the throat. It's produced by having the back of the tongue make contact with the uvula and producing a "k"-like sound.
- *R, r*: 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.
- *Sh, sh*: Pronounced similar to the "sh" in "shack". In fact, it almost sounds a bit like "hy", pronounced quickly. The sound one makes when mimicking white noise (TV static) will be very close to this sound. The key difference is which part of the tongue is making the sound. In English "sh", the tongue tip flattens and is pressed against the front part of the hard palate. The sound we're after is pronounced with the blade of the tongue against the middle of the hard palate.
- *Y, y*: Pronounced like the "y" in "yoke".
- *Zh, zh*: Pronounced similar to 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 a word mid-vowel 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.)

- **Doubled Vowels:** Doubled vowels are pronounced as long vowels (see *aa*, *aai* and *ii* above). Long vowels are held for twice as long as short vowels, and will sound noticeably longer than the short vowels.
- **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 penultimate syllable, with secondary stresses occurring on every other syllable radiating outward from the stressed syllable. The only exceptions are words that end in either *ng* or *r*, which are stressed on the final syllable.

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 long vowel. Yanga Kayang only allows a small set of sounds to occur word-finally. A word may end in *ng*, *k*, *kh* or *r*. A word-internal syllable, though, may end in *ng*, *k*, *g*, *kh*, *r*, *h*, *sh*, *zh*, *ky* or *gy*.
- Adjacent consonants must agree in voicing (this means that clusters like *kr* or *nkh* are impossible). Voice assimilation is regressive, so the voicing of the second obstruent in a cluster will spread to the first (so a cluster like *gyk* will be pronounced like *kyk*). When a nasal is the first consonant of a cluster, it will spread voicing to the second consonant (so *ngsh* will become *ngzh*). When a *q* precedes a voiced sound, it will become *g*.
- Yanga Kayang is known for its longer words and lack of coronal and labial consonants (in addition to having only two vowel qualities). Its character is unmistakable.
- A word may end in *g*, but the *g* will devoice to a *k*. The *g* will reappear if a suffix is added.

- A word may not begin with a vowel. Words that begin orthographically with either *a* or *i* actually begin with a glottal stop, but since this will always be the case, the glottal stop will not be written.
- Several consonant clusters whose second member is *y* become palatal singletons. This is a list of them: *ky* becomes *ky*; *gy* becomes *gy*; *khy* becomes *sh*; *ry* becomes *zh*; *ngy* becomes *ny*; and *hy* becomes *sh*. Palatal consonants followed by *y* merge, with the net result being that the *y* seems to disappear.
- A *y* will turn into a *gy* when occurring before the vowel *i*. Similarly, an *r* will turn into an *l* when occurring before the vowel *i*.
- The nasal *ny* will become *ng* when occurring before *k*, *g*, *kh*, *r*, *ng* and *h*. It will also become *ng* when occurring word finally.
- An epenthetic *g* will be inserted when *r* or *l* follows *ng*. (Note that due to other sound changes, both the clusters *ngr* and *ngkh* will automatically become *nggr*.)
- In unstressed syllables (i.e. syllables without a primary or secondary stress), long vowels reduce in length, but not in quality (thus, *aa* is pronounced [a] not [ə], and *ii* is pronounced [i] not [ɪ] or [ɨ]).
- If the spellings for the clusters *kyk* and *gyg* are unintuitive, they can be spelled (and pronounced) as *chk* and *jpg*.