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KOREAN NAMES



There is a Korean proverb that if you throw a stone, it will hit a Kim, a Park, or a Lee. This is because Koreans have in general a small set of family names: Kim, Yi (or Lee), Park, Choi, Jeong, Jang, Han, Lim, etc. A Korean name consists of a family name (one syllable) plus a given name (usually two syllables), and the family name comes first. One syllable of the given name is chosen by the clan and is used by all members of the same generation.

Most families have family tree books tracing their ancestry back to the first father. It is called a *Jokbo*. A Korean woman does not take her husband's family name, but their children take the father's family name.

Given names are used in the family, between classmates, or between very close friends. Terms of kinship (for example the Korean equivalents of older brother, older sister, uncle, aunt, grandfather and grandmother), are used instead of names when addressing or referring to older people. A person not in the family is addressed by his or her title, position, scholastic rank, or by an honorific.

Pairs:

- Write your name here.
- Explain the meaning of the letters to your partner.