



## Japanese Name Variants

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CJKI maintains a comprehensive database of approximately 3.5 million Japanese personal name and name variants, described at: <http://www.cjk.org/cjk/samples/jnamevar.htm>

Below is a description of the chart below, which shows the complex many-to-many relations between Japanese personal names.

1. The starting point is the **root**, the kanji string 淳子, which is highly ambiguous as it could represent many readings and name variants.
2. The middle column shows the **branches**, with romanized names in red representing the various **readings** for these names in standard English spelling based on the Hepburn system with long vowels omitted, as is the common practice. That is, "Akiko", "Atsuko", "Kiyoko", etc. are different readings of 淳子, each of which represents a distinct Japanese name. There is thus a one-to-many relation from **kanji-to-readings**.
3. Each reading in the branches columns has **twigs**, in blue, which represents romanized orthographic variants on two hierarchical levels: (1) romanization system and (2) variants within each romanization system. For the sake of simplicity these are collapsed into one list. There is thus a one-to-many relation from **reading-to-variants**.
4. The kanji names in green show that each of the readings in the branches column can be written in a large variety of kanji combinations which are homophones. Thus "Akiko" can be written in about 170 ways, as for example 亜喜子, 亜基子, 亜希子, 亜季子, 亜紀子, 亜規子, 亜記子, 亜貴子, etc. This means that there is also a one-to-many relation from **readings-to-kanji**, as well as from **variants-to-kanji**.

