

# NAMES & References:

Vietnamese names usually come in three parts. (Two-part and four-part names are also possible.)

1<sup>st</sup> name = family name (surname)

e.g., Ngo Dinh Diem

last name = personal name - sometimes used in formal contacts

e.g., President Ngo Dinh Diem = President Diem

Names often reflect parents' perception of child's character or physical appearance or their hope for the child.

Hung = brave

Hoa = flower

Terms denoting family relationships replace personal pronouns.

Choices depend on sex, age, social status, family relationship, relationship between speaker and person addressed, overall degree of familiarity between the two

You = ahn (literally, older brother): used when addressing young male; less formal

You = ong (literally, grandfather): used when addressing older man; formal, respectful

Terms designating family relations are more specific than in English

e.g., ong noi = grandfather, father's side

e.g., ong ngoai = grandfather, mother's side