

# TENRA BANSHO ZERO NAMING GUIDE

This guide was developed by Andy Kitkowski for the Tenra Bansho Zero core book's English release, to provide westerners an "in" into somewhat appropriately naming their characters and places in the game. You can download other play tools at the official website: [www.tenra-rpg.com](http://www.tenra-rpg.com)

Here is a sampling of names of people and places to help get your games started. You can draw upon other media for names as well.

These are pulled from a combination of historical and literary sources, focusing on names of the Sengoku (Warring States) period, which the game emulates.

## PLACE NAMES

For place names, feel free to use basic English adjective/noun combinations as well, as many Japanese place names are little more than simple descriptions of area landmarks and the like (Azuma-Mura = East Village; Tanigawa = River Valley; Takashima = High Island).

### Towns and Cities

Fukuyama  
Ashikura  
Niida  
Onejime  
Sendai  
Kanma  
Tsuchigawa

Hirobashi  
Ota  
Sanbashi  
Ashio  
Kurino  
Obora  
Eno  
Nakadani  
Fuchina  
Ariie  
Koyamachi  
Ebitani  
Sakai  
Azuma  
Kamiura  
Kiryu  
Shikina  
Oshu  
Seto  
Miyagahama  
Mugikubo  
Michidani  
Iwade  
Sasari  
Oko  
Tajiri  
Mino  
Narai  
Mitake  
Kanoya  
Urata  
Okawa  
Jinda  
Uesugi  
Higae  
Hazama  
Ichibara  
Arase  
Kamimura  
Shinden

Izumo  
Washiya  
Seki  
Obonai  
Hinata  
Mori  
Nakazato  
Takada  
Ochiai  
Yanaizu  
Tendo  
Ariake  
Uken  
Lake's Wave  
Small Rice  
Temple City  
Far Grass  
Southern Ten  
Broken Shell  
Great Market  
Bright Crevice  
Long Field  
Black Temple  
Seven Gateways  
One Stone  
Deer Forest  
Mountain Crest  
Crying Valley  
Black Field  
Small Forest  
Red Beach  
Teawater  
Sieve Mountain  
Red Oni  
River Pass  
Valley of the Gods  
Endless Snow  
Nishi- (West)  
Higashi- (East)  
Kita- (North)

Minami- (South)

The above names can be used for castles, fortresses, gates and the like. The fortress overlooking the town of Tendo would be called Tendo Fortress, etc.

English maps of Japan online are a great source of classic location names, as well as traditional last names (which historically are derived from place names).

## INN NAMES

Sometimes you just need a really good name for an inn, tavern or brothel. Feel free to use English names (“The Wild Sparrow”, “The Lonely Moon Inn” etc), but here’s a couple actual Japanese ones as well:

Kagiya (Kagiya’s House/Inn)  
Chidori (Plover, a bird that staggers around drunkenly when it walks)  
Enokiya (Cedar House/Inn)  
Tamaya (The Jewel)  
Manshichi (The Full/Satisfying Lucky Seven)  
Funaso (The Gilded Boat)

## PEOPLE NAMES

In the world of Tenra, only lords, retainers and clan warriors, and other nobles have last names (some wealthy merchants take a last name as well, usually a variation of their store name). Heroes that do great deeds during battle are sometimes awarded last names by their lords, usually a portion of their own name.

Everyone with a last name is called by their last name, though they use their first name between very good friends and family. All of the names in the Tenra Bansho rulebook follow the Japanese convention of writing the last name first, followed by the person’s given name.

Everyone else, the majority of the people in the world of Tenra, go by their given name:

*Omino*

Or they go by a name and a descriptor, usually based on their profession:

*Omino the Sandal-maker*

*Omino the Assassin*

*Lute-player Omino*

Or, if they are making a name for themselves, they might go by (or be referred to by) a decorative nickname:

*Purple Omino* (because she wears purple clothing often)

*Omino the Viper*

*Ten-blade Omino*

*Omino, the Battlefield Dancer*

*Blind Omino*

*Omino the Hawk*

They might also eventually drop their name altogether for their nickname:

*The Viper*

*Ten-blade*

*Hawk*

Armours, kongohki and kugutsu are given poetic-sounding names. Buddhist monks also assume special monk names which are also rather poetic.

*Red Lightning*

*Benevolent Chrysanthemum*

*Howling Moon*

*Spring Cloud*

*House-of-Stars*

*Agate Soul*

See the random lists below for more ideas on monk, kongohki, yoroi and kugutsu names.

### Female Names

Nowadays, many Japanese female first names end in “-ko”. This phenomenon of adding “-ko” to the end of female names really didn’t start happening until the mid 20th century, before that it was mostly reserved for empresses or aristocrats (in case you were looking up Japanese female names from the Internet, movies, manga, anime and the like for your character). Much more common were the “O-(something)” names for that period. However, the setting of Tenra is full of cultural anachronisms, feel free to use any name as you see fit.

### Roll or Choose

The lists below can be looked at and chosen from as you see fit, or you can roll two dice to randomly pick a name.

# COMMONERS

These are the names for common folk: A majority of Tenra characters and NPCs, those with no ties to vassals or nobility.

## Commoner Last Names

Again, while most people in Tenra do not have last names unless they were descendants of nobles or vassals, in some areas wealthier families or families who were in good standing with nobles (or whom received a last name as a gift) received last names. Here are a few.

1-1 Kawaguchi  
1-2 Sakanoshita  
1-3 Fukada  
1-4 Shouji  
1-5 Nakaie  
1-6 Agata  
2-1 Sasagawa  
2-2 Tanaka  
2-3 Kishida  
2-4 Iwata  
2-5 Arai  
2-6 Naganuma  
3-1 Sawada  
3-2 Imai  
3-3 Machara  
3-4 Yonemura  
3-5 Inamura  
3-6 Yamauchi  
4-1 Kagamiyama  
4-2 Kitou  
4-3 Kataragi  
4-4 Kuryuzu  
4-5 Kurumikawa

4-6 Mitarai  
5-1 Sougiku  
5-2 Ryuou  
5-3 Marikodani  
5-4 Kujiranami  
5-5 Kurebayashi  
5-6 Ipponyari  
6-1 Tsukigata  
6-2 Umekoji  
6-3 Gionji  
6-4 Teshigawara  
6-4 Sanrigi  
6-6 Mikuriya

## Commoner Male Names

1-1 Soroku  
1-2 Tatsuzo  
1-3 Hanbei  
1-4 Yosaku  
1-5 Masagoro  
1-6 Jinbei  
2-1 Matabei  
2-2 Hyouma  
2-3 Juzo  
2-4 Yosuke  
2-5 Katsuzo  
2-6 Tomekichi  
3-1 Eikichi  
3-2 Seigoro  
3-3 Monjirou  
3-4 Shichizo  
3-5 Rokusuke  
3-6 Minokichi  
4-1 Heizaemon  
4-2 Goichi  
4-3 Chubei  
4-4 Tadakichi  
4-5 Matajiri

4-6 Souichi  
5-1 Umekichi  
5-2 Shikazou  
5-3 Seikichi  
5-4 Kansuke  
5-5 Kobunta  
5-6 Chokichi  
6-1 Okinosuke  
6-2 Kaheiji  
6-3 Shouhachi  
6-4 Bunshichi  
6-5 Toragoro  
6-6 Otokichi

## Commoner Female Names

Note that for all the names below, this is the given name. Their name in public (even with friends) would commonly be prefixed with an “O-”: Omino, Osaki, Oshino, Ofune and so on. Some may prefer to go without the “O” in front, but for the most part consider all the names below to be prefixable with “O-”.

1-1 Gin  
1-2 Rin  
1-3 Hisa  
1-4 Naka  
1-5 Natsu  
1-6 Ichi  
2-1 Hana  
2-2 Nobu  
2-3 Haru  
2-4 Mon  
2-5 Mino  
2-6 Toki  
3-1 Tama  
3-2 Tsuru  
3-3 Yuki

3-4 Sato  
3-5 Kiku  
3-6 Fuku  
4-1 Kinu  
4-2 Kayo  
4-3 Saki  
4-4 Mitsu  
4-5 Shizu  
4-6 Shima  
5-1 Shino  
5-2 Sumi  
5-3 Sono  
5-4 Chizu  
5-5 Chika  
5-6 Chie  
6-1 Fune  
6-2 Mayu  
6-3 Masa  
6-4 Ume  
6-5 Tami  
6-6 Rui

## WARRIOR FAMILIES

These are names for characters that come from a buke, or warrior family (noble, vassal, etc) family.

### Warrior Family Last Names

1,2-1 Satake  
1,2-2 Souma  
1,2-3 Nikaido  
1,2-4 Ashina  
1,2-5 Honjo  
1,2-6 Nagao  
3,4-1 Yura  
3,4-2 Kuki  
3,4-3 Hatano

3,4-4 Bessho  
3,4-5 Amago  
3,4-6 Ukita  
5,6-1 Aki  
5,6-2 Ryuzouji  
5,6-3 Akizuki  
5,6-4 Kyougoku  
5,6-5 Shirakawa  
5,6-6 Kumabe

### Warrior Family Male Names

1,2-1 Sadamune  
1,2-2 Hisanori  
1,2-3 Takatsune  
1,2-4 Yoshimasa  
1,2-5 Nobutoki  
1,2-6 Mitsunobu  
3,4-1 Harutsugu  
3,4-2 Masamori  
3,4-3 Tadataka  
3,4-4 Naokatsu  
3,4-5 Kaneyori  
3,4-6 Munekiyo  
5,6-1 Shigetsuna  
5,6-2 Yoshizumi  
5,6-3 Naritoshi  
5,6-4 Yukihira  
5,6-5 Motokage  
5,6-6 Nagaharu

### Warrior Family Female Names

1,2-1 Aya  
1,2-2 Matsu  
1,2-3 Kame  
1,2-4 Toku  
1,2-5 Tsuru  
1,2-6 Hideko

3,4-1 Kiku  
3,4-2 Tatsuko  
3,4-3 Hatsu  
3,4-4 Hiroko  
3,4-5 Fuji  
3,4-6 Mari  
5,6-1 Teruko  
5,6-2 Oto  
5,6-3 Fuku  
5,6-4 Yoshino  
5,6-5 Tsune  
5,6-6 Takeno

## ARISTOCRATIC NAMES

Sometimes a kizoku - a high noble or aristocrat - will be introduced in the game. They have the oldest names. Some families with strong ties to the Shinto priesthood might have these names.

### Aristocratic Last Names

1,2,3-1 Tachibana  
1,2,3-2 Kujou  
1,2,3-3 Sanjou  
1,2,3-4 Nijou  
1,2,3-5 Saionji  
1,2,3-6 Fujiwara  
4,5,6-1 Kiyohara  
4,5,6-2 Konoe  
4,5,6-3 Daitokuji  
4,5,6-4 Kuga  
4,5,6-5 Hanayamain  
4,5,6-6 Takatsukasa

## Aristocratic Male Names

1,2-1,2 Saneyuki  
1,2-3,4 Kimiie  
1,2-5,6 Kanefusa  
3,4-1,2 Iezane  
3,4-3,4 Tadaie  
3,4-5,6 Tsunemichi  
5,6-1,2 Naotada  
5,6-3,4 Kiyomaro  
5,6-5 Shigetsune  
5,6-6 Tadamichi

## Aristocratic Female Names

1,2-1,2 Shigeko  
1,2-3,4 Seiko  
1,2-5,6 Yasuko  
3,4-1,2 Hiroko  
3,4-3,4 Tamako  
3,4-5,6 Yoshiko  
5,6-1,2 Kiyoko  
5,6-3,4 Tamiko  
5,6-5 Mitsuko  
5,6-6 Nobuko

## ONI NAMES

Oni are named after words in their own language, usually made up of two short syllables. Y's, I's and L's are common, as well as combinations and letters that are not common to Japanese. Of course disguised oni and hornless Nusa oni would adopt common human/Japanese names so as not to arouse suspicion. Noteworthy oni will have nicknames just as humans on Tenra might: "Ta-bakh the swiftblade", "Lu-Myn the Harpist", and so on. Choose or roll below:

1,2-1 Keyu  
1,2-2 Mi-Hal  
1,2-3 Wo-Yau  
1,2-4 Mah-Lu  
1,2-5 Ta-bakh  
1,2-6 Laz-Fol  
3,4-1 Ba-Yau  
3,4-2 Yil-Din  
3,4-3 Dimh-Yn  
3,4-4 Din-Yi  
3,4-5 Ti-Shea  
3,4-6 Lii-Yil  
5,6-1 Jalh-Yu  
5,6-2 Yykh-Ka  
5,6-3 Balh-Syr  
5,6-4 Lu-Myn  
5,6-5 Tabh  
5,6-6 Eja

## KUGUTSU NAMES

Kugutsu are named by their makers (although some makers allow their kugutsu to name themselves).

Kugutsu names tend to be simplistic and flowery, usually based on objects in nature or colors. Many are prefixed by adjectives (Moonlight becomes Gentle Moonlight, Tranquil Moonlight, etc). While these names are flowery, they do not automatically cause a stranger to think that they were a kugutsu: Instead, when introduced the stranger would assume that she has peculiarly poetic parents, or perhaps are of noble ancestry. A kugutsu does not have to take a "normal" name to disguise herself if she is on the run, but particularly savvy or worldly kugutsu may do that.

1,2-1 Brilliant Flower  
1,2-2 Agate  
1,2-3 Emerald  
1,2-4 Spring Rain  
1,2-5 Sparrow  
1,2-6 Moonlight  
3,4-1 Lotus  
3,4-2 Iris  
3,4-3 Graceful Sunset  
3,4-4 Poem  
3,4-5 Tranquility  
3,4-6 Snow  
5,6-1 Calm Breeze  
5,6-2 Green Wave  
5,6-3 Morning Fog  
5,6-4 Summer Light  
5,6-5 Chrysanthemum  
5,6-6 Azure Pond

## BUDDHIST PRIEST NAMES

When monks are ordained in the more traditional orders like the Phoenix sect, they are given names by their elders. These names may have deep significance for the monk, or sometimes they were simply a fanciful image the elder had in a dream. In all cases, they are descriptive and flowery much like kugutsu names are, perhaps even more so.

Roll or choose two names on the chart below and put them together to determine a Buddhist monk name. When combining them, make one of the words into an adjective describing the other word (Spring plus Heaven = Heavenly Spring, Heaven's Spring, Spring-of-Heaven; choose one).

1-1 Dawn  
1-2 Morning  
1-3 Winter  
1-4 Dusk  
1-5 Night  
1-6 Midnight  
2-1 Ebon  
2-2 Heaven  
2-3 Illusion  
2-4 Power  
2-5 Ancestor  
2-6 Light  
3-1 Ebony  
3-2 Azure  
3-3 Vermillion  
3-4 Emerald  
3-5 Cerulean  
3-6 Crimson  
4-1 Valley

4-2 Storm  
4-3 Mountain  
4-4 Lake  
4-5 Sky  
4-6 Cloud  
5-1 Granite  
5-2 Shelter  
5-3 Temple  
5-4 Refuge  
5-5 Hall  
5-6 Robe  
6-1 Sutra  
6-2 Mantra  
6-3 Kongoh/Vajra  
6-4 Scroll  
6-5 Mandala  
6-6 Lotus

## YOROI AND KONGOHKI NAMES

Yoroi and kongohki are given names by their creators, and as such they are often (like so many other names) artistic, natural, flowery.

Feel free to use the Buddhist monk chart above, and mix in some of the words below (perhaps choose or roll once from Buddhist names, once from Yoroi/Kongohki names). Choosing a name for the yoroi before designing it may provide inspiration for its appearance and form.

1-1 Demon  
1-2 King  
1-3 Fang  
1-4 Kami/God  
1-5 Titan

1-6 Sentinel  
2-1 Mantis  
2-2 Viper  
2-3 Elephant  
2-4 Spider  
2-5 Ox  
2-6 Tiger  
3-1 Aeon  
3-2 Spiral  
3-3 Break  
3-4 Eternity  
3-5 Earth  
3-6 Star  
4-1 Dragon  
4-2 Stone  
4-3 Savage  
4-4 Ultimate  
4-5 Steel  
4-6 Cosmos  
5-1 Ruin  
5-2 Naraku/Hell  
5-3 Fate  
5-4 Circle  
5-5 Glyph  
5-6 Fire  
6-1 Poison  
6-2 Ghost  
6-3 Soul  
6-4 Mist  
6-5 Pillar  
6-6 Chalice