

# ZHONGGUO NAME FORMULA

Written By Chuan Lin

## Introduction

People of Zhongguo believed that the universe is composed of five elements: metal, wood, water, fire and earth. These five elements can be complementary or annihilating, and out of this paradox the universe develops and changed. The theory of the five elements has also been used to explain the growth and development of Zhongguo.

Using the elements to select a name is based on the idea that characters in Zhongguo language can be classified to the five elements, and a name is a combination of the elements. Therefore, a combination that is in keeping with the law of the “complementary” brings good fortune to a character while one that follows the laws of annihilating bring adverse fortune to a character. Thus, even the poorest family would hire an erudite to give their child an auspicious name.

## Name Combinations Using the Five Elements

*Auspicious Family Name + Given Name*

Metal + Earth & Fire  
Metal + Metal & Water  
Metal + Water & Wood  
Metal + Water & Water  
Metal + Water

Fire + Wood & Water  
Fire + Fire & Earth  
Fire + Earth & Metal  
Fire + Earth & Earth  
Fire + Earth

Wood + Fire & Earth  
Wood + Water & Metal  
Wood + Wood & Fire  
Wood + Fire & Fire  
Wood + Fire

Earth + Fire & Wood  
Earth + Earth & Metal  
Earth + Metal & Water  
Earth + Metal & Metal  
Earth + Metal

Water + Wood & Fire  
Water + Water & Water  
Water + Wood & Wood  
Water + Metal & Earth  
Water + Wood

*Adverse Family Name + Given Name*

Metal + Fire & Water  
Metal + Metal & Wood  
Metal + Wood & Earth  
Metal + Wood & Wood  
Metal + Wood

Fire + Metal & Wood  
Fire + Fire & Metal  
Fire + Water & Earth  
Fire + Metal & Metal  
Fire + Metal

Wood + Earth & Water  
Wood + Metal & Fire  
Wood + Wood & Earth  
Wood + Earth & Earth  
Wood + Earth

Earth + Wood & Metal  
Earth + Earth & Wood  
Earth + Water & Fire  
Earth + Water & Water  
Earth + Water

Water + Fire & Metal  
Water + Earth & Earth  
Water + Fire & Fire  
Water + Earth & Wood  
Water + Fire

Thus, an Auspicious Name might be something like: Cǎi Shè-gǎn (Metal + Metal & Water), while an Adverse name could be Méng Wei-ge (Water + Earth & Wood).

## Name Associates With Metal Element

Cái (talent)  
Cǎi (colour)  
Cāng (dark green)

Céng (layer)  
 Chán (meditate)  
 Cheng (support)  
 Chuán (transmit)  
 Chun (spring)  
 Cóng (calm)  
 Qià (proper)  
 Qián (potential)  
 Qìng (clear)  
 Qu (trend)  
 Rì (sun)  
 Rùn (smooth)  
 Sâ (free & easy)  
 Shè (establish)  
 Shôu (first)  
 Xian (fine)  
 Xiang (fragrant)  
 Xué (learn)  
 Xù (preface)  
 Zàn (favour)  
 Zhàn (profound)  
 Zhen (true)  
 Zhì (will)

Words begin with c, q, r, s, x, or z

## Name Associates with Wood Element

Gài (deportment)  
 Gân (courageous)  
 Gân (moved)  
 Ge (pigeon)  
 Ge (song)  
 Gé (innovation)  
 Gēng (bright)  
 Gong (respectful)  
 Gōng (consolidate)  
 Guan (watch)  
 Guàn (pass through)  
 Guang (light)  
 Guāng (vast)  
 Kai (set up)  
 Kàn (overlook)  
 Kang (vehement)  
 Ke (science)  
 Kê (approve)  
 Kè (moment)  
 Kong (empty)  
 Kuàng (spacious)  
 Kuò (broad)  
 Méi (rose)

Words begin with g or k

## Name Associates with Water Element

Bái (white)  
 Bâi (cypress)  
 Bâi (worship)  
 Bang (state)  
 Bao (bud)  
 Bao (praise)  
 Bâo (treasure)  
 Bêi (north)  
 Bèng (burst)  
 Bì (accomplish)  
 Bin (refined)  
 Bīng (bright)  
 Bó (silk)  
 Fan (sail)  
 Hâi (sea)  
 Hán (self restraint)  
 Hàn (vast)  
 Hé (gentle)  
 Méi (plum)  
 Mèi (beautiful)  
 Mèi (charming)  
 Méng (sprout)  
 Mīn (quick)  
 Páng (huge)  
 Peng (splash)

Words begin with b, f, h, m or p

## Name Associates with Fire Element

Dào (guide)  
 Dài (wear)  
 Dài (deal with)  
 Dào (way)  
 Dé (moral)  
 Dōng (understand)  
 Jí (edit)  
 Jì (send)  
 Jia (fine)  
 Jiàn (sword)  
 Jīn (beautiful)  
 Jìng (compete)  
 Ju (reside)  
 Lân (read)  
 Lî (reason)  
 Liàng (understand)  
 Lóng (dragon)  
 Lù (way)  
 Lü (law)  
 Táng (cherry)  
 Tàn (explore)  
 Tian (heaven)  
 Tián (peaceful)

Tòu (penetrating)

Tú (way)

Words begin with d, j, l, n, t or z

## **Name Associates with Earth Element**

Âi (friendly)

Âi (love)

An (know well)

Áo (roam)

Ào (profound)

Wân (gentle)

Wei (power)

Wei (towering)

Wen (warm)

Wén (literate)

Wû (charming)

Yá (cliff)

Yá (sprout)

Yán (follow)

Yân (develop)

Yè (leaf)

Yè (business)

Yì (easy)

Yì (leisure)

Yíng (hover)

Yíng (be full of)

Yú (exceed)

Yù (make clear)

Yuè (pleased)

Yún (many)

Words begin with a, w, y, e, or o.