

Japanese Name Enders

どの
殿 [dono]

- ◆ Usually written on diplomas and certificates.
- ◆ Used sarcastically for someone acting high and mighty (or entitled and lordly).

さま
様 [sama]

- ◆ Formal name ender for customers and clients.
- ◆ Commonly used to address recipients of mail and emails.

さん [san]

- ◆ Used for everyone, no matter their age or gender.
- ◆ The most common respectful honorific.

くん
君 [kun]

- ◆ Usually used for people of the same or lower status.
- ◆ Most likely to be used for boys and men.

し
氏 [shi]

- ◆ Common name ender for formal writing.
- ◆ Nowadays, used among otaku or young people.

ちゃん [chan]

- ◆ Casual name ender mainly used for girls, but can be used for both genders, especially in childhood.
- ◆ Often comes after a given name. Surname + ちゃん sounds more like a nickname.

たん [tan]

- ◆ Baby talk version of ちゃん.
- ◆ Lovey-dovey way to refer to your partner.
- ◆ Common name ender for characters or idols in otaku culture.

Less common name enders

Defunct

嬢 [jō]

Before: equivalent to 君 for girls.
Now: “~ess,” as in actress, etc.
Or used sarcastically to call a woman spoiled or a “princess.”

女史 [joshi]

“Madam.” Used to pay respect to notable women.

卿 [kyō]

Used for government employees and nobility.

公 [kō]

An honorific for ministers. Also used by servants for their masters.

Obscure

やん [yan]

A friendly honorific attached to a nickname—originated in Western Japan but used almost everywhere.

りん [rin]

Casual and friendly, and only attached to female nicknames. Popular in the 1980s.

夫人 [fujin]

Reserved for women married to someone of high social status.

御中 [onchū]

Used in written correspondence to address an organization, school, or any kind of group.

尊 [son]
[mikoto]

Today, “son” is used exclusively for Buddhist deities and objects of worship, and “mikoto” is used for Shinto deities.