
Character names

From: Evan

Category: [Assets](#)

I'd like to make a list of the characters' names and their English equivalents. For most of the characters we can just use romanized versions of their names, but some of them don't seem to work very well in English and for some of them there are multiple possible romanizations. So I'd like to get your feedback on them.

First of all, these are the ones that are basically straight conversions of the Japanese to English:

パリン – Parin

ピノ – Pino

プク – Puku

モトロ – Mотор

王子 – The Prince

ピエール – Pierre

チャッキー – Chucky

ハイパーボリック – Hyperbolic

ディスク – Disk

シンリンダー – Cylinder

ファン – Fan

ロッキー – Rocky

ボブ – Bob

モスビー – Mosby

クリーム – Cream

イワオ – Iwao (could also use something that conveys the “rock-like” aspect of the name, but “Rocky” is already taken by a phantom)

プチ – Puchi (could also use a more typical English “dog name”)

Here are some that I have questions about

ポコ – POCO (somehow using a “c” seemed to fit the character better)

プレーン – Plain (this doesn't seem right to me)

ラッシー – Russhie or Lushie (Neither one really seems right. It is clear that it's a parody of Nessie—the Loch Ness Monster, though)

モグレヌ – Mogurenu (I don't think this name works in English. If anything it sounds like a girl's name, but the mole in question is male.)

モグロウ – Moguro (this works OK, although the “mole” pun will be lost on the players. Also, if we change Mogurenu, it might be better to have a different name for his brother that sounds similar.)

These are mostly just the ones that have come up so far in the translation. I will be adding to this list later on as I come upon new ones. I welcome any ideas or comments.

Evan



Hi Evan and Kenan,

It is time for us decide character names.

I think that all names except some are just fine as Evan's suggested. Here are names that I want to change too.

Iwao: I like Evan's idea to change it to rock-like name. How do you like naming him after boulder, crag, mountain or earth?

Plain: I do not like this name either. I think any name that make Americans think old fashioned name is fine. Can you suggest me a few?

Russhie: Evan, what do you mean by Loch Ness Monster?

Mogurenu & Moguro: Do you think when Americans see these characters, do they recognize they are moles? If so, I think we can name them after earth, dig, underground, mud... If naming after a mole does not make sense.

I think Puchi and Poco are good as Evan named.

I am sorry that I can not be a good help...

Mika



Evan

Hi Mika,

Let me talk about each character in turn.

Iwao: Unfortunately I can't really think of any rock-like names that sound good (actually, I can't think of any at all). And after thinking it over, I'm not really sure that it's necessary to change the name after all. The other monsters have names that don't really mean anything, so I don't think it's a problem to have a name that people wouldn't understand completely. But I'd certainly be interested to hear any suggestions that people have.

Plain: This is the one that we must change, I think. There are plenty of old-fashioned names, but I think it would be best to use something that matches the other people in the town—Hyperbolic, Disk, and Cylinder are all related to machines in some way. They might have meant “plane” (かんな—the carpenter's tool), but that still sounds strange to me. I'll have to give this a little more thought.

Russhie: I'm pretty sure that he is meant to be a parody of “Nessie” (otherwise known as the Loch Ness Monster). He seems to be a kind of sea monster, and the names are very similar.

Mogurenu & Moguro: I think Americans would recognize the characters as moles, and in any case the game text explicitly calls them moles, so that's not a problem. I actually like the name Moguro, but Mogurenu just seems wrong. It's hard to pronounce and doesn't really seem to fit the character. I think just about any name that begins with an M could be a mole's name, so my suggestion would be to keep Moguro and change Mogurenu to a different name, but still something similar in feel to Moguro. (Perhaps Moguto? Mogusuke?)

Evan



Kenan

Hi Everyone,

Iwao: He's got this lumbering, brutish quality about him, but in a loveable way. Rocky would have worked the best, but another character is named Rocky.

I don't want to make things more complicated, but I had an idea: We can change Iwao's name to Rocky, and the other Rocky's name to something else. The phantom enemy Rocky is always saying 'Gigaga!', so maybe we could call him Giga-something?

Plain: I'm thinking something like Patty, Pamela, Paula, Peggy, or Penny. Because she opens the Mystery Bags for you, she's got an aggressive personality that isn't just the stereotypical 'nice old lady'.

Russhie: I don't mind Nessie as a name. How about Bessie? If we decide to write him as a male, than it could be even funnier with a female name.

Mogurenu & Moguro: I'm thinking Moguro is ok for now. We could go a completely different route: Give the one with the helmet the name Moley, and call the cool one with the glasses 'Steve'. The name being so ordinary could be funny in and of itself.

-Kenan



Mieko

Iwao – I was thinking pretty much the same thing. His most natural name is Rocky. We can call ロッキー Giga, or anything of that sort.

Plain – Any of those names will work for me.

Russhie – Would Bessie be easily recognized as related to Nessie? If so, I'm fine with it.

Moguneru and Moguro – Moley and Molo? Diggo and Digga? I don't have a problem with "Steve" either, just throwing out ideas.

There are other names and item names that might need tweaking. Let's keep them consistent in the documents for now, so that we can do a global search and replace later.

Mieko



Bill

Mieko> Russhie – Would Bessie be easily recognized as related to Nessie? If so, I'm fine with it.

I don't think so. Bessie is a traditional name for a cow, and that association is strong enough that not many people would make the leap to Nessie.

Mieko> Moguneru and Moguro – Moley and Molo? Diggo and Digga? I don't have a problem with "Steve" either, just throwing out ideas.

The Rocky transformation seems like a good thing to do...

I like Moley and Molo best.

Bill



Mika

Hi,

Thank you for everyone!

So, let's do this...

Iwao: Rocky

Rocky: Giga

Plain: Pamela (no particular reason but sounds just right to me)

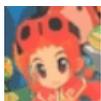
Moguro (older brother): Molo

Mogulenu (younger brother): Moley

Is everyone ok with the above?

I still have a hard time to decide about Russhie. I do not like Nessie. It is too straight forward and it sounds very masculine. Lochssie (ロ ッ ホ シ ー ?) ... no it does not sound good. Any other ideas?

Mika



Evan

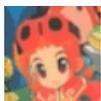
Good suggestions everyone.

I think calling Iwao Rocky and Rocky Giga can work fine. And Pamela works for me too. It fits the character, anyway.

I'm not crazy about Molo and Moley, though. To me, they don't fit the characters somehow. I kind of like the idea of having one be an obvious "mole name" and the other being something ordinary. How about Molevin (said with the accent on the first syllable, like Melvin) and Steve? For this to be funny, Mogurenu would have to be Molevin, since he appears first. And I think Steve fits Moguro's character, because he's trying to be cool and a sort of lady's mole (so to speak).

As for Russhie, I think keeping the Nessie reference may be difficult, so maybe we should just go for something totally different. For some reason, I think the name Roger fits him.

Evan



Evan

One other possibility that just occurred to me for Iwao is Rocko, which sounds a little tougher and doesn't have the connections to Rocky the movie or the Rocky the Squirrel.

Evan



Kenan

Evan,

I like your suggestion for Molevin and Steve. What you wrote were my thoughts exactly.

Also, I think 'Rocko' is a GREAT replacement for Rocky. It sounds a little bumbling but still tough!

Russhie = Roger ... This has potential. I think that giving him/her a more ordinary name will make his character even funnier.

Kenan



Mika

Hi,

Molevin, Steve, Rocko are fine with me. So, Rocky in JP version will stay as is, right?

Regarding Roger, can you think of names that could be used for female and male? I am not sure what we will decide on the okama scene yet, but if we have a name that could be used both, it might become convenient. I have been looking at baby name sites but can not come up with good names...

Mika



Mika Hayashi

Hi Evan,

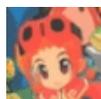
We have not reached agreement on all character names internally yet. We are still thinking of Moguro and Mogurenu names. However, for your work for now, please use the names in this bio attached here.

Thanks,
Mika



[gurumin character bios v 31 for Kris.doc](#)

2.33 MB



Evan

Hi everyone,

I was looking at the "character bios" document and I noticed one thing. The pronunciation of Parin's name is given as "Pah-rin". While this is of course a faithful rendering of the Japanese pronunciation, I think that if the average American saw the name "Parin" they would pronounce it "Pair-in" (more or less rhyming with the name "Karen"). This sounds more like a name to me, and I think it is actually easier for people to say as well. Any thoughts on this?

Evan



Kenan

Hi Evan,

We were still debating this. I actually think that the Pair-in version is better for the target audience as well. I'll let you know what we decide.

Thank you for your feedback,

Kenan



Kenan

Evan,

I just realized that Parin's name is never pronounced throughout the entire game. It's a customizable name, so it's only visible in the subtitles when there is no speaking. Therefore we don't have to worry too much about it at this point, I think :)

-Kenan



Evan

Kenan,

That's a very good point! Still, it would be helpful to have a standardized way of pronouncing the character's names, since you will need to be referring to them in English to talk to the voice actors, etc.

Evan