



Ιπποπόταμος  
WoLLow the HiPPo

## **The World of Languages and Languages of the World**

# **Names**

**Let's explore onomastics: the study of names.**

# These are the most popular names in different countries in 2021. Can you match them up?



1. Hugo and Lucia
2. Wei and Li
3. Mohammed and Saanvi
4. Junior and Precius
5. Jakob and Sophie
6. Da Yoon and Ha Yoon
7. Hiroshi and Nozomi
8. Jose and Maria
9. Alexander and Sofia
10. Gabriel and Louise

- a. Korea
- b. Norway
- c. Japan
- d. Mexico and Brazil
- e. Russia
- f. Spain
- g. India
- h. France
- i. South Africa
- j. China

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# Forenames and Surnames

- Names are either given or inherited.
- The study of names and their origins is called onomastics (onoma meaning "name").

In English-speaking countries, forenames are given names.

Surnames (or family names, or last names) are inherited.

The surname comes after the first name.

This isn't the case in every language. We'll explore this later.

# Our names – what do they mean?

Most given names have original meanings, although not everyone knows the meaning of their name.

- **Hubert comes from an old German word Hugu, "heart,"**
- **Sarah is from the Hebrew word for "princess"**
- **Amy is from Old French amée, "beloved."**
- **Jeevan means "life"**
- **Graham means "war-like"**
- **Simran means "meditation"**
- **Kamal means "lotus flower"**

Can you think of a name that was inspired by each of the following?

Name of a month:

Flowers:

Historical/mythical characters:

# Inherited names

- Inherited names are given to show \_\_\_\_\_. The most common sort is the family name, also called surname, or last name, but there are other kinds.
- Until about the 14<sup>th</sup> century most people had only one name. As towns and cities grew, it became necessary to identify individuals and families, so people started to be given a surname. E.g. John the Butcher
- There were four main ways that surnames were given.
- **Patronymic** – The fathers name with 'son' immediately after it, for example Peterson, Woodson etc. The Irish and Scottish Mac- or Mc- (McDonald) means 'son of', the Irish O' means "grandson" (O'Hare)
- **Place names** – Name that identifies where a person or family lived or came from, for example Hill, Wood, and Lake.
- **Occupational Names** – Name that shows what a person did for a living, for example Miller, Butler and Baker.
- **Nicknames** – Usually based on a person's personal characteristics, for example Short, Long and Savage.



# Names in Britain

1. Trees

2. Features of  
Landscape

3. Countries

4. Occupations

5. Rivers and Streams

6. County, Town,  
Village, Hamlet

7. Nicknames

- a. French, Beamish, Britten, Fleming, Hannay, Janeway, Lubbock, Moore, (Blackmore, Morys, Moris, Morris, Morice, Morrisice, Maurice, Moorish, Mountmorris are themselves all further forms of Moore).
- b. Bristowe, Vyse, Thorpe, Boroughs, Bury, Burg, Burke, Bourke, Borrow, Burrowes.
- c. Armstrong, Strongitharm, Heavyside, Quickly, Slowman, Smallman, Good, Goodchild, Thoroughgood, Joly
- d. Hill, Hills, Hull, Athill, Holt, Wold, Noll, Knollys, Knolles, Ness, Thill, Knill, Wood, Woods, Greenwood, Woodman, Woodruffe, Woodcutter, Attwood.
- e. Surtees, Pickersgill, Hope, Holm, Fleet, Burn, Bourne, Sike, Sykes
- f. Leaf, Bark, Root, Stock, Zouch, Curzon, Elmes, Hazelle, Maples, Oakley, Oakerley, Noakes, Oakham, Ockhay, Cheynes, Chenies

# The answers

- 1 f
- 2 d
- 3 a
- 4 g
- 5 3
- 6 b
- 7 c



# Names around the world

**In China and Japan** as well as among some Hindu families of southwest **India**, the family name appears first; so in Zhou Enlai, the family name is Zhou and the given name is Enlai.

Your name in this style: \_\_\_\_\_

Among the **ancient Romans**, a person had three or four names; a **praenomen** or forename; a **nomen**, or clan name; a **cognomen**, or family name; and sometimes an **agnomen**, or honorary name, as in Publius Cornelius Scipio Africanus.

Your name in this style: \_\_\_\_\_

The **Anglo-Saxons** favoured alliterative given names in a family, and the 7th-century Kentish nobleman Eormenred went even further, calling his three daughters Eormenbeorh, Eormenburh, and Eormengyth!

Your name in this style (make it start with the same letters as your parents or siblings): \_\_\_\_\_



# Names around the world

In **Iceland**, instead of a family name, people inherit their father's first name. A man named Harald might have as children Erik Haraldsson (his son) and Helga Haraldsdottir (his daughter).

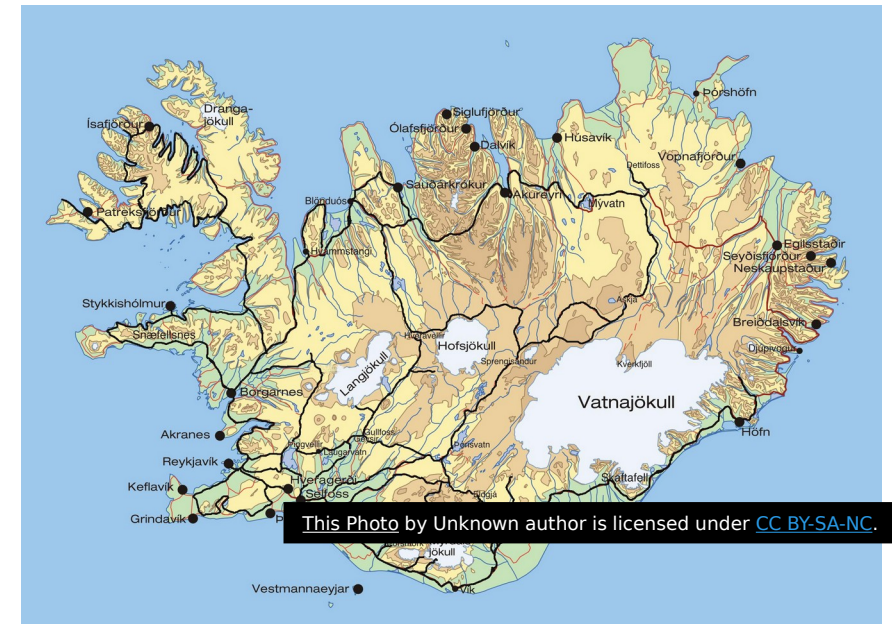
Your name in this style: \_\_\_\_\_

Every **Russian** name consists of three names: First, Patronymic and Surname. Each first name then has four forms: Full (for formal occasions), Short (for friends and family), Affectionate (used by parents, grandparents) and Rude (as an insult).

Your name in this style: (First name, one from your father, then your surname): \_\_\_\_\_

Formal first name: \_\_\_\_\_

Short first name:



# A Final thought... My Name

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Do you know  
what your  
given name  
means?

Do you have a  
middle name?  
Do you know  
its meaning?

Do you know  
what your  
family name  
means?

Has your  
family got a  
different way  
of naming  
people?

Do you have a  
nickname or  
pet name?

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