

Listening skills practice: What's in a name? – exercises

Listen to the extract from a radio programme about names and do the exercises to practise and improve your listening skills.

Do the preparation exercise before you listen. Then do the other exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation

Write the words in the correct group.

Daisy	Hannah	James	Alice
Harry	Muhammad	Jacob	Ava
Daniel	Jasmine	Jake	Amy

/ei/ train	/æ/ ham
DAISY JAMES JACOB AVA JAKE AMY	HANNAH ALICE HARRY MUHAMMAD DANIEL JASMINE

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

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|----|---|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | The US starts trends in names that Britain sometimes follows. | True | False |
| 2. | Using nouns as names is a completely new fashion. | True | False |
| 3. | Names that seem to come from nature could come from surnames. | True | False |
| 4. | 'Ridge' is a name that is inspired by nature. | True | False |
| 5. | 'Lyric' is a relatively popular name. | True | False |
| 6. | All the different months are popular as names. | True | False |
| 7. | 'Blue' is a popular name for boys. | True | False |
| 8. | 'Apple' is probably becoming popular because of the company of that name. | True | False |
| 9. | People soon accept names that seem strange at first. | True | False |

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| 10. | The Beckhams' daughter was named after a famous writer. | True | False |
| 11. | 'Rowling' is a popular name because of the Harry Potter writer. | True | False |
| 12. | There is a Dutch family with six children whose names all use the same letters. | True | False |

2. Check your understanding: gap fill

Complete the sentences with words from the box.

places	anagrams	abstract qualities	food names
safety and warmth	jobs	inspired by nature	fictional characters

- Examples of names that are abstract qualities are 'Honor' and 'Passion'.
- Examples of names that suggest safety and warmth are 'Shelter', 'Bay' and 'Harbor'.
- Examples of names that could be inspired by nature are 'Frost', 'Wolf', 'Fox' and 'Bear'.
- Examples of food names are 'Olive' and 'Clementine'.
- Examples of names that are places are 'Chelsea' and 'Brooklyn'.
- Examples of names that are jobs are 'Taylor', 'Mason' and 'Cooper'.
- Examples of names taken from fictional characters are 'Bella', 'Edward' and 'Hermione'.
- Examples of names that are anagrams of each other are 'Alex', 'Lexa', 'Xela' and 'Xeal'.

Discussion

Do you have a common or an unusual name? Do you like your name?

Yes, I do have a common name, I do like my name because my mom gave it to me.
Yes I like my name