

Pseudonyms

A pseudonym is a false name that a person adopts. The word comes from two Greek words, *pseud*, meaning “false” and *onyma*, meaning “name.” Can you match the pseudonyms in the left column with the person’s real name?

Pseudonym	Real Name
___ Jennifer Aniston	A. Marshall B. Mathers III
___ Jay-Z	B. Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson
___ Katy Perry	C. Audrey Faith Perry
___ Tom Cruise	D. Tracy Morrow
___ Eminem	E. Mary Ann Evans
___ George Eliot	F. Winona Horowitz
___ Gerald R. Ford	G. Daniel Lawrence Whitney
___ Faith Hill	H. Stefani Germanotta
___ Hulk Hogan	I. Shawn Corey Carter
___ Ice-T	J. Thomas Mapother IV
___ Queen Latifah	K. Terry Jean Bollette
___ Demi Moore	L. Dana Owens
___ Kid Rock	M. Christopher Bridges
___ Ludacris	N. Robert Ritchie
___ Lady Gaga	O. Annie Mae Bullock
___ Winona Ryder	P. Daniel Handler
___ Larry the Cable Guy	Q. Samuel L. Clemens
___ Tina Turner	R. Demetria Guynes
___ Mark Twain	S. Jennifer Anistopoulou
___ Lemony Snicket	T. Leslie Lynch King, Jr.

For Discussion

People choose pseudonyms for a variety of reasons. What advantages might some of the names above have over the person’s real name? (Hint: Consider each person’s profession and historical time.)

Writing Task

If you were to use a pseudonym, what might it be? Consider the sounds and meaning of a name as you choose a pseudonym for yourself. Write a paragraph explaining the advantages it might have over your real name.

Answers

- S Jennifer Aniston = Jennifer Anistopoulou
- I Jay-Z = Shawn Corey Carter
- B Katy Perry = Katheryn Elizabeth Hudson
- J Tom Cruise = Thomas Mapother IV
- A Eminem = Marshall B. Mathers III
- E George Eliot = Mary Ann Evans
Mary Ann Evans published *Silas Marner* and other novels at a time when women were not accepted as writers, so she used a masculine pseudonym.
- T Gerald R. Ford = Leslie Lynch King, Jr.
His mother left an abusive marriage when Ford was a baby. She renamed her son after his stepfather when she remarried, and he made the change permanent when he was 13.
- C Faith Hill = Audrey Faith Perry
- K Hulk Hogan = Terry Jean Bollette
- D Ice-T = Tracy Morrow
- L Queen Latifah = Dana Owens
- R Demi Moore = Demetria Guynes
- N Kid Rock = Robert Ritchie
- M Ludacris = Christopher Bridges
- H Lady Gaga = Stefani Germanotta
- F Winona Ryder = Winona Horowitz
- G Larry the Cable Guy = Daniel Lawrence Whitney
- O Tina Turner = Annie Mae Bullock
- Q Mark Twain = Samuel L. Clemens
Twain's pseudonym was based on a river term indicating the water was safe enough for steamboats to travel. Pseudonyms were common among writers in the American West in the last 1800s.
- P Lemony Snicket = Daniel Handler