# **UNIT 2 NAMES**

**I. Lead-in**

1. What do you think are the world’s most common first names?

2. What are the most common family names in your country?

3. Why do you think people change their names? Have you ever thought of changing your name?

**II. Topic Vocabulary. Names**

**2.1. Real names**

1) first name/given name/Christian name/forename;

2) last name/surname/family name;

3) middle name/second name ≠ patronymic;

4) initials A.P. stand for … (first name initial/middle initial/patronymic initial);

5) full name ≠ short name (to be short for …);

6) maiden name ≠ married name.

**2.2. Fancy names**

1) nickname ≠ pet name (to be nicknamed … , to know sb by his/her nickname);

2) pen-name/pseudonym (to adopt the pseudonym of … , to write under the pseudonym of …).

**2.3. To name**

1) to give sb a name;

2) to name sb after sb (to be named after sb);

3) to be christened/baptised …;

4) to call sb … (to call sb lots of different names);

5) to change one’s name to …;

6) to live up to one’s name;

7) by name, by the name of … .

**2.4. Fill in the gaps with the above words/phrases.**

1. Her … … is Lupita Armondi Nyong’o. She was born in Mexico and her parents … her Spanish … which is … for Guadalupe.

2. Tolkien was an English writer, poet and university professor, and author of ‘The Lord of the Rings.’ His full … were J.R.R.T. but he was known as Ronald to his family.

3. Her … … was Skladowska, but she was awarded the Nobel Prize under her … …

4. Her name comes from her childhood … of ‘Smiley’. She … her … legally.

5. After she became a famous novelist, J.K. Rowling published detective stories under the … Robert Galbraith.

6. She is an award-winning actress who is … … a city near where she was born.

7. His … … is James, his father, but his family used his … … to avoid confusion.

8. His name is Edward, but he … … Ed … … .

**2.5. Tell a partner about someone you know who …**

1) has a nickname;

2) is named after a place;

3) is named after a famous person;

4) is called something for short;

5) has a very unusual name;

6) has changed his/her name.

**2.6. Work in pairs. Ask and answer the questions.**

1. What are the origins of your first name?

2. How much do you know about your family name?

3. Do you have any nicknames?

4. Do people ever confuse your name or make mistakes with it?

5. Why do you think some names become fashionable/unfashionable?

**2.7. Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space.**

|  |
| --- |
| from well their same up it of how because by make such with have to |

**How do People Choose Names for their Babies?**

In the past, many names were chosen for (1) … religious associations or because of national or family tradition. If a boy’s great-grandfather, his grandfather and father were all called Patrick, then (2) … was very likely that a new-born baby would be called Patrick as (3) … . Sometimes parents wanted to please a wealthy or much loved relative (4) … naming the baby after him or her and in countries (5) … as Spain a child was often given the name of the saint whose feast day coincided (6) … the birth. Mostly names (7) … good connotations, though there are exceptions. Parents in some parts of the world gave their babies names like “Ugly” or “Disagreeable” so as to (8) … the child unattractive to demons.

Nowadays the main consideration in most English-speaking countries seems to be fashion combined with (9) … the name sounds. New names are sometimes invented simply (10) … they sound pleasant. In Britain the influence of television soaps, pop music and Hollywood is clear as is the increasing appeal (11) … less common names. In the United States current naming trends include naming children after places, using traditional last names as first names and borrowing (12) … other languages and cultures.

There are hundreds of books and even web sites devoted (13) … listing names for anxious parents who still can’t make (14) … their minds. Despite the almost bewildering range of choices plenty of children still end up in classrooms where three, four or even more of their classmates have the (15) … name.

**2.8. Say**

1) how names were chosen in the past;

2) how parents pleased a wealthy or much loved relative;

3) how saints’ names were chosen for babies;

4) why parents in some parts of the world gave their babies ugly names;

5) what helps parents to choose names;

6) what’s the main consideration of choosing names nowadays;

7) whether the range of choices is enormous.

**III. Reading**

**3.1. Guess which countries or regions these names are from. Do you think they are first names or surnames?**

Yeon Seok Rakhmaninov Lopez Ramirez Aarushi Li

Abdul Ahad Jones

**3.2. Read the article and check your answers. Are the first names from the list male or female?**

**Naming Customs around the World**

**1. KOREA**

Names in Korea are written with the surname first, and the first name usually has two parts. So, if Yeon Seok has the surname Lee, his name is written Lee Yeon Seok. Two-part first names are never shortened; that is, Lee Yeon Seok will always be called Yeon Seon, not Yeon.

**2. RUSSIA**

Russian names have three parts: a first name, a patronymic (a middle name based on the father’s first name, and the father’s surname.

**3. SPANISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES**

In most Spanish-speaking countries, people have a first name (sometimes in two parts, e.g. Juan Carlos) and two surnames, their father’s and their mother’s, for example, Maria Jose Lopez Ramirez. In Spain, traditionally the father’s surname goes first, followed by the mother’s, but nowadays the order can be reversed. However, both surnames are always used and on any form, people will be asked for their surnames, not their surname.

**4. INDIA**

India has many religions and languages which influence the naming customs. Hindu first names are usually based on the position of the planets at the date and time of birth, but the names are often shortened by family and friends. For example, a brother and a sister may have the formal names Aditya and Aarushi, but family and friends may call them Adi and Ashi for short.

**5. CHINA**

Chinese names are made up of three ‘characters’: a one-character surname followed by a two-character first name, e.g. Li Xiu Ying. A child’s official name is used for their birth certificate and for school, but Chinese children often have a different name that is used among friends and classmates.

**6. AFGHANISTAN**

Afghan names traditionally consist of only a first name. Male first names are usually Arabic double names, e.g. Abdul Ahad, and women are generally given Persian names, e.g. Jasmine. Surnames are chosen only when needed. Commonly, this is when people have contact with the Western world. The surname may be related to the tribe the person comes from, their place of birth, or their profession, e.g. ‘Doctor’. This may result in people within the same family having different surnames.

**7. THE UK**

Since the 19th century, British women have taken their husband’s surname when they get married, so when Sophie Jones marries Peter Elliot, she becomes Mrs. Sophie Elliot. However, 14% of married women now choose to keep their maiden name. If they do so, couples sometimes then combine their surnames for their children, so if Sophie decides to keep the surname Jones, their children might have the surname Jones-Elliot or Elliot-Jones.

**3.3. Read the article again. In which country or countries …?**

1) does the surname come before the first name;

2) do people have no surname;

3) do people have more than one surname;

4) do people have a middle name connected to their father’s name;

5) do some people stop using the surname they were born with;

6) are people given names depending on when they were born.

**3.4. What is the naming custom in your country? Has it changed over the years? Do you think it ought to change?**

**\*IV. Topic Vocabulary. Names**

**\*4.1. Read sentences 1 — 8 and answer questions A. — F. about the words/phrases in bold.**

1. My **given name** is Stephen, but I have a Greek **surname** – Theodorakopoulos – and a Spanish **middle name** – Gonzalo.
2. My **maiden name** is Popova but my **married name** is Edelstein.
3. I was **named after** my grandmother.
4. I’m from a famous family and it’s not easy to **live up to my name**.
5. I worked hard for twenty years and **made a name for myself** in film.
6. He used to be **a household name** but young people don’t know him.
7. I **put my name forward** for class president.
8. Even though she was innocent, it took her years to **clear her name**.
9. Which are on your passport/identity document?
10. Which might change in your lifetime?
11. Which are related to reputation?
12. Which is in honour of someone else?
13. Which means ‘volunteered’?
14. Which means ‘famous’?

**\*4.2. Work in pairs. Complete the sentences.**

1. One given name that I really like is …

2. I have made/would like to make a name for myself as a …

3. … should be a household name because he/she …

4. One job I’d never put my name forward for is …

5. … is so famous that everyone knows him/her by his/her nickname …

**\*4.3. Reading. Read the article and answer the questions.**

1. What do the results of Mehrabian’s research show us?

2. Who is Pamela Satran?

3. What does Angela Baron think of employers who give people jobs on the basis of names?

4. According to Satran, what influences the way people name their children?

**The Name Game**

**1** We’ve all got one – the friend with the impossibly glamorous name that leaves the Peters, Katherines and Margarets among us feeling somewhat, well, frumpy. Sometimes life (or in this case parents) isn’t fair. But it’s not as if the first name you get lumped with at birth actually has an impact on your success in later life, is it?

**2** Albert Mehrabian, professor emeritus of psychology at the University of California, certainly thinks so. “Names generate impressions, just like a person’s appearance can generate a positive or negative impression,” he says. “But names also have an impact when you’re not physically present, such as when you send in a CV.

**3** Mehrabian has researched people’s instinctive reactions to hundreds of first names. It’s striking how many positive associations some names carry, and how negative the connotations of others turn out to be – particularly when it comes to linking names with ‘success’, which Mehrabian takes to include ambition, confidence and other such valuable workplace attributes.

**4** So what kind of name does it take to reach the top of the tree career-wise? Based on research in the US, Mehrabian says that Alexander scores 100 percent for ‘success’, William gets 99 percent and John 98 percent. For the girls, Jacqueline rates very highly, as do Diana, Danielle and Catherine. Although Katherine, Mehrabian points out, does slightly better than Catherine.

**5** But can the impact of a first name really be that cut and dried? Pamela Satran, co-author of eight baby-naming books, is less convinced that the power of a name can be quantified.

**6** “There isn’t that much hard evidence that’s absolutely conclusive,” says Satran. She recalls one American study where researchers submitted identical CVs to a number of employers. The forename on half of the CVs was Lashanda, ‘seen as a stereotypical African-American name,’ says Satran. The name of the other half was Lauren – seen as much more white and middle class. In one study Lauren got five times more call-backs than Lashanda, says Satran, but in another study the rate was similar for both names. “I’ve seen similarly conflicting studies,” Satran adds.

**7** Angela Baron, an adviser at the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, takes an understandably dim view of employers who make decisions on the basis of first names. “People do make emotive judgments,” she says, but “we shouldn’t be recruiting people on that basis. Good interviewers will be aware that what they need to look for are skills, experience and what the interviewee can do for the business.”

**8** Celebrities are leading the field in the bizarre forename stakes, with Jordan (a British model) calling her daughter Princess Tiaamii and Jeramaine Jakson (Michael Jackson’s brother) lumbering his son with … wait for it … Jermajesty. But non-celebrity parents aren’t far behind.

**9** “My pupils have increasingly outlandish names,” says one secondary school teacher from north London. She cites ‘poorly spelt names’ such as Amba, Jordon, Charlee and Moniqua, and what she calls ‘absurd names’ like Shaliqua and Sharday. How will such names affect her students when they go out to get a job? “I think it’s a serious disadvantage,” she says.

**10** Albert Mehrabian agrees that ‘deliberately misspelt names are disastrous.’ But Pamela Satran has a more relaxed take: “How these names are perceived is something that’s changing very rapidly,” she says. “Celebrity culture and ethnic diversity have made people much more eager to look for a wide range of names of their own. The thinking is if you have a special name, that makes you a special person.”

**\*4.4. What do you think the following words/phrases mean? Use a dictionary to help you if necessary.**

1) frumpy (paragraph 1);

2) get lumped with (paragraph 1);

3) reach the top of the tree (paragraph 4);

4) cut and dried (paragraph 5);

5) call-backs (paragraph 6);

6) take a dim view of (paragraph 7);

7) celebrities are leading the field in the bizarre forename stakes (paragraph 8);

8) outlandish (paragraph 9).

**\*4.5. Discussion. Work in pairs and discuss the questions.**

1. Who do you agree with more: Mehrabian or Satran?

2. How has your name affected you in life?

3. Why do you think certain names are associated with success?

4. The research for this article was done in the US. Do you think the same is true of names in your country?

**V. Speaking**

**Tell your groupmates about the names of your family members. Use the topic vocabulary and the information from the unit.**