

18 Expressions with people's names

Activity A

There are several expressions in English that use real or fictional people's names to symbolize something. Match each of the names below with a definition.

Aunt Sally	Hobson's choice	Houdini	Jack the Lad (BrE)
Joe Sixpack (NAme)	John Doe (NAme)	John Hancock (NAme)	Uncle Sam

- 1 a person or an animal that is very good at escaping _____
- 2 a person's signature _____
- 3 a man who is considered typical of a person who does manual work _____
- 4 a way of referring to the United States of America or the US government (sometimes shown as a tall man with a white beard and a tall hat) _____
- 5 a situation in which somebody has no choice because if they do not accept what is offered, they will get nothing _____
- 6 a name used for a person whose name is not known or is kept secret, especially in a court of law, or an average man _____
- 7 a young man who is very confident in a rude and noisy way, and enjoys going out with male friends, drinking alcohol and trying to attract women _____
- 8 a person or thing that a lot of people criticize _____

Activity B

- 1 Do you know the origin of any of these expressions? If so, tell your partner.
- 2 Do you use any expressions using names in your language? If so, tell your partner about three of them.

Activity C

- 1 The hamster's gone missing again? Proper little _____, isn't he?
- 2 I didn't really want this job but it was _____—it was the only one I was offered.
- 3 If all Chicago's factories close, how is _____ going to feed his children?
- 4 He's the typical _____, always boasting about how many girlfriends he's had.
- 5 The company has filed a lawsuit against a defendant named only as '_____'.

- 6 He spent five years in the US army, fighting for _____.
- 7 You just need to fill out this form and put your _____ at the bottom.
- 8 After a series of mistakes in big games, the goalkeeper has become a(n) _____, being blamed for the team's failures.