

Your Name

“Remember my name and you add to my feeling of importance.”

—Dale Carnegie



Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Do you have a hard time remembering names?
2. Do you like your first name? How about your last name?
3. Would you ever change your name?
4. Do names matter in business?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

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|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| ___ 1. tactic | a) to spend a lot of time and effort |
| ___ 2. psychologist | b) unfair treatment due to qualities such as race or gender |
| ___ 3. go to great lengths | c) a professional who studies the human mind |
| ___ 4. obliged | d) feeling like you have to do something |
| ___ 5. previous | e) for male or female |
| ___ 6. generation | f) unlike others |
| ___ 7. unique | g) before now |
| ___ 8. unisex | h) a trick that helps you get what you want |
| ___ 9. discrimination | i) all of the people born in a common time period |
| ___ 10. the norm | j) the usual or average |
| ___ 11. familiar | k) unfair, mean |
| ___ 12. cruel | l) common, typical |
| ___ 13. pronounce | m) to say properly |

Reading

YOUR NAME

The sweetest word you'll ever hear

1. If you want people to like you, take time to remember names. This is a common business **tactic**. **Psychologists** say that the sweetest word you will ever hear is your own name. This may not be true if you dislike your name or if your name is hard to **pronounce**. Some people **go to great lengths** to change their name. How do you think this makes their parents feel?
2. Most parents put a lot of time into naming their babies. Some babies end up with two or three middle names because their parents can't agree on a name. Others feel **obliged** to pass names on from a **previous generation**. They might secretly wish they could call their child *Apple* instead of *Mary*. Is it **cruel** to give a child a **unique** name?
3. Some parents give their girls names that are **unisex**. They don't want their daughters to face **discrimination** on paper. Discrimination is **the norm** for job hunters with foreign names. After all, remembering foreign names is even harder than remembering ones you are **familiar** with.

Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. How do business people get others to like them?
2. What word do we all like to hear?
3. What do people sometimes feel obliged to do?
4. Why do some people give their daughters names like "Jamie"?
5. When do people with foreign names typically face discrimination?

Vocabulary Review

A. Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from the Word List.
Some words will not be used.

1. Business people go to _____ lengths to remember all of their clients' names.
2. Giving a child at least one middle name is _____ in Canada.
3. It can be difficult to pronounce _____ names that we aren't familiar with.
4. In _____ generations, it was common to give a daughter her mother's name.
5. _____ names like Jesse and Alex help prevent discrimination in the work world.
6. We felt _____ to name our daughter after my mom since our son was named after my dad.

Word List

- large
- obliged
- the norm
- before
- unique
- unisex
- previous
- generation
- great

B. Word Placement

Where does the word in bold belong in the sentence?
Circle the correct letter.

1. **cruel**
Some people think it's a to give a child a name b that is difficult to c pronounce.
2. **generation**
Many a girls were named b Jennifer in my c .
3. **familiar**
Are a you b with the book called "Let's c Name the Baby"?
4. **discrimination**
Rejecting a a job applicant due to his b name is a form of c .

Discussion

1. How important is a name in your country?
2. Do you think some people look like their name?
Does anyone you know *not* look like his or her name?
3. What ideas or tricks can you think of for remembering names?

Class Opinion

Walk around the class and ask your classmates questions.
Write their answers in the chart below.

| Classmate's name: | Would you call someone if you didn't know how to pronounce their name correctly? | Do you believe that your name is the sweetest sound you'll ever hear? | If you had a daughter today, would you give her a unisex name? |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
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Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

YOUR NAME

The sweetest word you'll ever hear

1. If you want people to like you, take time to remember names.
This is a common business tactic. _____ say that the sweetest word you will ever hear is your own name. This may not be true if you dislike your name or if your name is hard to _____. Some people go to great lengths to change their name. How do you think this makes their parents feel?
2. Most parents put a lot of time into naming their babies. Some babies end up with two or three middle names because their parents can't agree on a name. Others feel _____ to pass names on from a previous generation. They might secretly wish they could call their child *Apple* instead of *Mary*. Is it _____ to give a child a _____ name?
3. Some parents give their girls names that are _____. They don't want their daughters to face discrimination on paper. Discrimination is the norm for job hunters with foreign names. After all, remembering foreign names is even harder than remembering ones you are _____ with.

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

Students read about the importance of remembering names. They learn and practice new vocabulary and discuss whether or not they like their own names.

TEACHING TIPS:

See *Discussion Starters Teaching Guide* (<https://esllibrary.com/courses/72/lessons/>) for a variety of ways to use the reading.

LEVEL: Int

TIME: 1.5–2 hours

TAGS: discussion, remembering names, names, relationships, friends, social, business

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Have students work in small groups or as a class. Discuss the quote.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. h | 3. a | 5. g | 7. f | 9. b | 11. l | 13. m |
| 2. c | 4. d | 6. i | 8. e | 10. j | 12. k | |

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

Comprehension

1. Business people try to remember peoples' names.
2. According to psychologists, we all like to hear the sound of our own name.
3. People sometimes feel obliged to pass family names on to their children.
4. Unisex names are sometimes given to prevent discrimination.
5. People with foreign names typically face discrimination when they are looking for work.

Vocabulary Review

A. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|------------|
| 1. great | 3. unique | 5. Unisex |
| 2. the norm | 4. previous | 6. obliged |

B. WORD PLACEMENT

- | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|
| 1. a | 2. c | 3. b | 4. c |
|------|------|------|------|

Discussion

Answers will vary.
Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

Class Opinion

Have students walk around the class and ask their classmates questions. They should record their answers in the chart.

Listening

1. Psychologists, pronounce
2. obliged, cruel, unique
3. unisex, familiar