

**Activity 1**

*With your partner discuss what the following words and phrases mean.*

pseudonym   stage name   nickname   maiden name   household name   surname   nom de plume

**Activity 2**

*With your partner match the famous people on the left below with their original names on the right. Why do you think they changed them?*

- |                    |           |    |                  |
|--------------------|-----------|----|------------------|
| 1. Bono            | (singer)  | a) | Gordon Sumner    |
| 2. Elton John      | (singer)  | b) | Nicholas Coppola |
| 3. John Wayne      | (actor)   | c) | Enrique Morales  |
| 4. Sting           | (singer)  | d) | Paul Hewson      |
| 5. Whoopi Goldberg | (actress) | e) | Norma Jean Baker |
| 6. Nicholas Cage   | (actor)   | f) | Mary Ann Evans   |
| 7. Michael Keaton  | (actor)   | g) | Reginald Dwight  |
| 8. Marilyn Monroe  | (actress) | h) | Marion Morrison  |
| 9. Ricky Martin    | (singer)  | i) | Caryn Johnson    |
| 10. George Eliot   | (writer)  | j) | Michael Douglas  |

**Activity 3**

*Fill the gaps in the sentences below with the following phrases and idioms.*

*user name   name dropping   plain Jane   call someone names   name the day   Tom, Dick and Harry*

- Do you know when Jack and Jill are getting married?  
No, they haven't ..... yet.
- Is his new girlfriend pretty?  
No, she's a .....
- The children ..... him ..... at school because he was different from the others.
- Please enter your ..... and password then press the return key.
- She has met lots of famous people, hasn't she?  
Yes, and she loves talking about them! I think ..... makes her feel important.
- Can I have a party on my birthday, Mum?  
Yes, but don't invite any ..... Just invite a few close friends.

**Activity 4**

*Use the following questions to begin a conversation with your partner.*

- What are your favourite names? If you could change your name, what would you change it to?
- Are there any names you really dislike? Why don't you like them?
- What names did/will you choose for your children? Why do you like those names?
- What factors should parents consider when choosing names for their children?
- Which names are fashionable in your country at the moment? Why are they so popular?
- Do you know someone who has a nickname? How did s/he get it? Does s/he like it?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of having an unusual name?
- How easy or difficult is it in your country for someone to change their name?
- Do women in your country legally adopt their husband's surname when they get married? Why/not?
- In this age of sexual equality, should children take the surnames of both their parents?

**Activity 5**

Go to **EnglishClub.com** and click on the 'TP Homework' icon. Use the information you find there to answer the questions below.

1. The title of this worksheet, 'What's in a name?', is a quotation from which Shakespeare play?
2. What was the most popular girls' name in Britain in 2006?
3. What was the most popular boys' name in Britain in 2006?
4. What is the answer to the Quick Quiz?

**Activity 6**

**'It would be a good idea for children to take the surnames of both their parents!'**  
**Do you agree?**

If you would like to express your opinion on this subject go to **EnglishClub.com** and click on the 'TP Discussion' icon to take part in the forum discussion there.

**N.B. Netiquette! PLEASE CHANGE THE DEFAULT SUBJECT LINE TO INDICATE THE OPINIONS IN YOUR POST BECAUSE IN A BUSY THREAD IT HELPS PEOPLE DECIDE WHICH POSTS TO READ!**

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