

Conversation Questions: Names

1. What is your full name?
2. Are nicknames common in your culture? Do you have a nickname? If so, what is it? How did you get it? Do you like it?
3. Does your name have a meaning? If so, what does it mean?
4. How did your parents choose your name?
5. Do you have a middle name?
6. Are you happy with your name? If not, why not? If you could change your name, would you? What name would you choose?
7. Do you have children? If so, what are their names and how did you choose them? If you don't have children and you plan to in the future, what names do you think you will give them?
8. What are some of the most common names for males and females in your country? In the U.S.?
9. What are the most common surnames (last names) in your country? How about in the U.S.?
10. What is the most unusual name you have ever heard?
11. In your opinion, what is the most beautiful name for a female?
12. What is the best name for a male?
13. Are there any names you absolutely hate? If so, what are they? Why do you hate them?
14. Do you think names shape our personality? To what degree?
15. Does a person's name affect your first impression of that person? Give examples.
16. In your culture, when you introduce yourself, does the last name (surname) come first or the first name?
17. In schools and workplaces in your country, do people usually address one another by first or last name?
18. What are some titles people use in your country (Mr., Mrs., Ms., Sir, Dr., etc.) and when are they used?
19. Do you know of any cultural traditions about names from your country or other countries? For example, does a woman keep her maiden (father's last name) when she marries, or does she take her husband's last name, or does she hyphenate the two last names (for example: Lopez-Smith)? How about children? Whose last name do they take?
20. In your culture, how are children's names chosen? Is it common to name children after relatives? Do names have religious, historical, or regional/local significance?
21. Does your family have a tradition about names? For example, are there any names that are passed down from one generation to the next?
22. Do you think it is okay to give pets human names? What is the most popular name for a dog in your country? How about cats?