

READING COMPREHENSION HOMEWORK

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 Seok, 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. If Viktor Aleksandrovich Rakhmaninov has two children, his son's name might be Mikhail Viktorevich Rakhmaninov and his daughter's name might be Svetlana Viktorevna Rakhmaninova (the 'a' at the end of all three names shows that she is female).
- 3 **SPANISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES** In most Spanish-speaking countries, people have a first name (sometimes in two parts, e.g. Maria José, Juan Carlos) and two surnames, their father's and their mother's, for example, Maria José López Ramírez. 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 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 15th 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 decided to keep the surname Jones, their children might have the surname Jones-Elliot or Elliot-Jones.

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

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