
Names

WORKSHEET A

Having a name is something we take for granted. After all, almost everyone has one: an exception, according to anthropologists, is the Machiguenga tribe, who live in the Amazon region of South America and whose members do not have individual names. It's difficult to find an estimate of how many different given names there are in the world, but it would obviously be an enormous number. In Britain alone, where the population is 60 million (less than 1% of the global total), the babies born in the last 15 years have been given 27,000 different names.

The most common name in the world today is one for a male: Muhammad. There are probably more than 150 million men and boys called Muhammad (sometimes the spelling is slightly different, such as *Mohammad* or *Mohamed*), due mainly, of course, to the name's great popularity in Muslim countries.

Among females it can probably be said that Mary is the most popular name, as long as the many variations such as Maria, Marie, Mariya, Maarja and Mariam are included.

In the United States the most popular name for baby boys born in 2011 was Aiden, followed by Jackson and Mason. For girls it was Sophia, followed by Emma and Isabella. In Britain in 2011 the top three names for baby boys were Oliver, Jack and Harry; for girls they were Lily, Emily and Isabella.

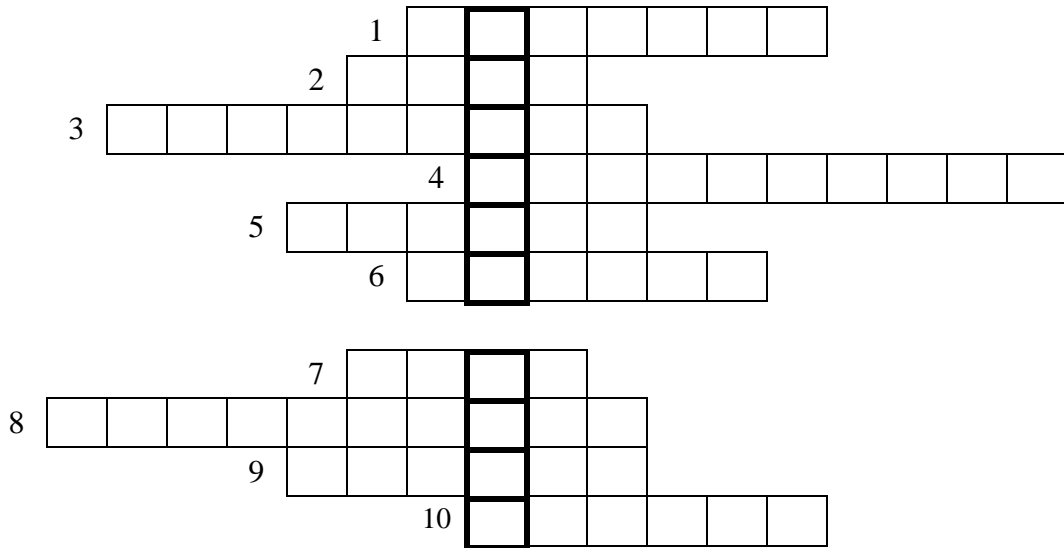
Studies have shown that in the USA and Britain, and no doubt in many other countries, the popularity of names changes greatly over time: ten years ago the names in those top-three lists were mostly different. The studies also show that the names of famous people can quickly become popular: since the singer Rihanna became very successful, for example, there has been a big rise in the number of baby girls sharing her name.

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WORKSHEET B

Exercise 1

Complete the crossword below. If all the words are correct, the fourth most popular name for baby girls in the United States in 2011 will read from top to bottom, followed by the fourth most popular name for baby boys.



1. In the United States in 2011, the most _____ name for baby boys was Aiden.
2. In Britain in 2011, the most common name for baby girls was _____.
3. Almost everyone has an individual name; by not having them, the members of the Machiguenga tribe in South America are an _____.
4. Mary, Maria and Mariam are _____ of the same name in different languages.
5. In the last 15 years, British _____ have been given 27,000 different names.
6. The number of baby girls _____ Rihanna has risen recently.
7. Muhammad is a name for a _____.
8. The _____ of names does not stay the same as time passes.
9. Isabella is a name for a _____.
10. Muhammad is a very popular name in _____ countries.

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WORKSHEET C

Exercise 2

Most of the text from Worksheet A has been copied below, but now contains some mistakes. Twelve of the words in bold are incorrect, and four are correct. Decide which are incorrect, and correct them.

Having a name is something we (1) **give** for granted. After all, almost everyone has one: an exception, according to (2) **anthropologists**, is the Machiguenga (3) **tribo**, who live in the Amazon region of South America and whose (4) **remembers** do not have individual names.

It's difficult to find an (5) **estate** of how many different given names there are in the world, but it would obviously be an (6) **enormous** number. In Britain alone, where the population is 60 million (less than 1% of the global total), the babies born in the last 15 years have been given 27,000 different names.

The most common name in the world today is one for a male: Muhammad. There are probably more than 150 (7) **millions** men and boys called Muhammad (sometimes the spelling is slightly different, such as *Mohammad* or *Mohamed*), (8) **dew** mainly, of course, to the name's great popularity in Muslim countries.

Among (9) **males** it can probably be said that Mary is the most popular name, as long (10) **to** the many variations such as Maria, Marie, Mariya, Maarja and Mariam are included.

In the United States the most popular name for baby boys (11) **born** in 2011 was Aiden, followed by Jackson and Mason. For girls it was Sophia, followed by Emma and Isabella. In Britain in 2011 the (12) **tip** three names for baby boys were Oliver, Jack and Harry; for girls they were Lily, Emily and Isabella.

Studies have shown that in the USA and Britain, and no (13) **doubts** in many other countries, the popularity of names changes greatly over time: ten years ago the names in those top-three lists were mostly different. The studies also show that the names of famous people can quickly become popular: since the singer Rihanna became very (14) **success**, for example, there has been a big (15) **rose** in the number of baby girls (16) **sharing** her name.