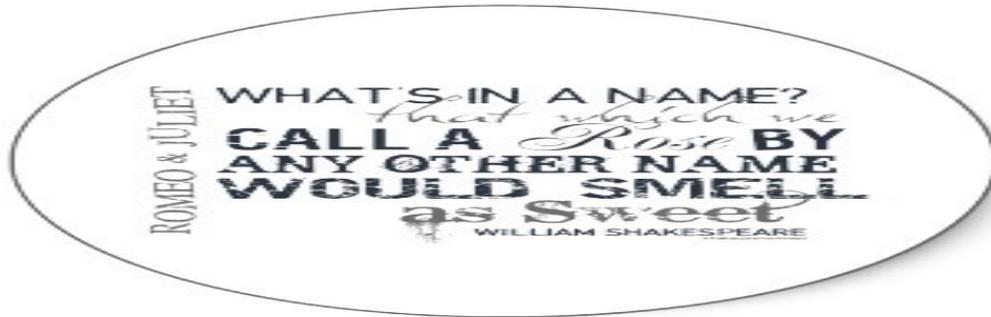


THE ARTICLE

The world's press is speculating over the name of football star David Beckham's newborn daughter. David and his wife, former Spice Girls star Victoria Beckham, named their daughter Harper Seven. The couple has a track record for producing less-than-ordinary names. Their three sons are called Romeo, Cruz and Brooklyn. Harper is a traditional girl's name that is the second fastest rising girl's name on the ParentDish.com website. Reports are that David's three sons opted for the name Harper because it is a character from the Disney series *Wizards Of Waverly Place*, the boys' favourite TV show. David told reporters: "Victoria loved it because it's an old English name and even though Harper is an American by birth, she will always have English roots."

The big question is why the Beckhams chose Seven as their daughter's middle name. Perhaps the most obvious one is the name refers to the number David has on his football shirt when he played for Manchester United and England. It is also reported to be David's lucky number. "The Independent" newspaper in Britain published a list of other theories, including the possibility that Harper was named after her birth time and weight. The paper wrote: "Harper Seven arrived in the seventh month of the year, at 07.55 in the morning, weighing 7lb 10oz [3.18 kg]. These are important omens." The "Daily Telegraph" pointed out that unusual names might not always benefit children, saying: "When it comes to naming newborn children, a certain responsibility remains."

Brainstorm: Brainstorm with a partner(s) words and ideas associated with "maiden name" for 2 minutes.



NAMES: What are good ones? Complete this table with your partner(s)

	Really good	Really bad
Girl's name		
Boy's name		
Grandfather's name		
Grandmother's name		
Sports team name		
Car name		

Meanings: With your partners discuss what the following words and phrases mean.

Pseudonym Stage Name Nickname Maiden Name Surname Nom de Plume

Do you agree or disagree? Why?

- Your name is your identity.
- Your name isn't as important as your character.
- It's important for a woman to change her last name when she gets married.
- Men should change their last name when they get married.
- Anyone should be able to change their name anytime they want

IDIOMS AND PHRASES

user name/ name dropping/ plain Jane/ call someone names/ name the day/ Tom Dick & Harry

1. Do you know when Jack and Jill are getting married?
No. They they haven't _____ yet.
2. Is his new girlfriend pretty?
No, she's a _____.
3. The children _____ him _____ at school because he was a bit of a black sheep.
4. Please enter you _____ and password then press the enter key.
5. She has met lot's of famous people, hasn't she?
Yes, and she loves talking about them too.
I think _____ makes her feel important.
6. Can I have a party on my birthday, Mum?
Yes, but don't invite any _____. Just invite a few close friends.

Q&A

1. **What are your favourite names? If you could change your name what would you like to change it to?**
2. **Are there any names you dislike? Why do you dislike them?**
3. **What factors should parents consider when choosing names for their children?**
4. **Which names are fashionable in your country at the moment? Why are they so popular?**
5. **Do you, or someone you know have a nickname? How did they get it?**
6. **How easy or difficult or easy is it for someone to change their name in your country? (legally)**
7. **What are the advantages and disadvantages of having an unusual name?**
8. **In this age of sexual equality, should children take the surnames of both parents?**