

1A Why did they call you that?

1 READING & VOCABULARY

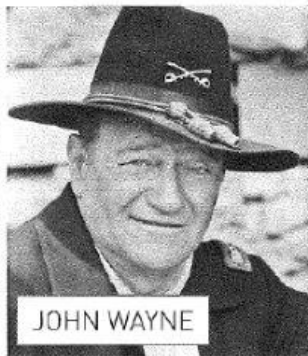
a Read the text once. What are the three main reasons the article gives for why people want to change their names?

b Read the text again and mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

- 1 More people change their names today than in the past. T
- 2 Elton John changed his name because it wasn't very masculine. —
- 3 Elle Macpherson changed her name because it wasn't very fashionable. —
- 4 Some ordinary people change their names to the name of a celebrity. —
- 5 The name 'Amy Winehouse' is more popular than the name 'Wayne Rooney'. —
- 6 Shaun McCormack is happy with his new name. —
- 7 Not everybody changes their name in search of fame. —
- 8 Wafah Dufour changed her name because she separated from her husband. —
- 9 A deed poll is an official document that says you have changed your name. —
- 10 British people have to pay a lot of money to change their names. —



ELLE MACPHERSON



JOHN WAYNE



ELTON JOHN

DON'T LIKE YOUR NAME? THEN CHANGE IT!

These days, more and more people are changing their names. Last year in the UK, around 58,000 people decided that they wanted a different one. So why do people make this choice, and how easy is it to do so?

Celebrities change their names because they need to create a new image for themselves. In the past, male actors needed to have a masculine name, which is why Marion Robert Morrison chose to call himself John Wayne. Singers look for a name that their fans will remember, which explains why Reginald Kenneth Dwight decided to become Elton John. In the world of fashion, Eleanor Nancy Gow did not become successful until she changed her name to something more stylish: Elle Macpherson.

However, it is not only the famous who seek to change their name. Today, ordinary people do it too, and some of them do it for fun. They often find inspiration in their favourite singers or sporting heroes. In the past few years, 30 men have changed their names to Michael Jackson, 15 more to Wayne Rooney, and five women have become Amy Winehouse. But you have to feel sorry for Liverpool fan Shaun McCormack who changed his name to Fernando Torres six months before the Spanish footballer moved to a different club.

Other people have more serious reasons for changing their names. In many cases, they want to have more privacy, so they choose a name that will not stand out. John Smith is the most popular of these names, and recently, over 300 people have chosen it. Women who separate from their husbands often want to change their children's surnames to their own. Others want to escape the past or unwanted connection. After the events of 11 September 2001, US-born model Wafah Dufour took her mother's maiden name because she did not want to be associated with her uncle. His name was Osama bin Laden.

So how do you go about changing your name? In the UK, it is easy because no one is legally obliged to use the name on their birth certificate. However, if you want to change your name on your bank account or on official documents, you need proof. The proof can be a letter from a responsible person, such as a doctor, a public announcement in a local newspaper, or an official document called a deed poll. Deed polls are available free of charge on the internet, although some people prefer to pay a solicitor to help them with the papers.

The fixation with changing one's name shows no sign of slowing down, and there will probably be more Wayne Rooneys by this time next year. But whichever celebrity is popular at the time, their name will never be a match for the latest group of John Smiths.

c Match the **highlighted** words and expressions in the text to the definitions below:

- 1 change the general impression of yourself that you give to other people create a new image
- 2 start trying to do something _____
- 3 information that shows that something is true _____
- 4 try to do something _____
- 5 be easily seen or noticed _____
- 6 a lawyer who prepares legal documents _____
- 7 not seriously _____
- 8 the official document that states the date and place where you were born _____
- 9 feel sadness or pity for someone _____
- 10 a woman's family name before she gets married _____

2 GRAMMAR pronouns

c Complete the dialogues. Change the word order in the answer and use pronouns for the direct and indirect objects.

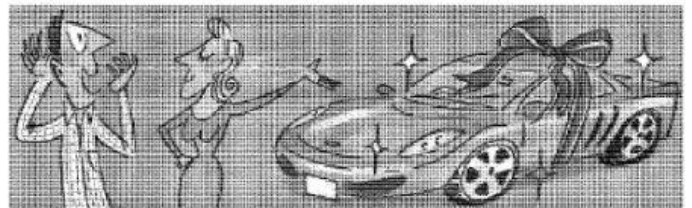
- 1 A Who cooks your grandfather his lunch?
B My aunt cooks it for him.
- 2 A Who sent Sophie those flowers?
B Her husband _____.
- 3 A Who is reading the children the story?
B Their grandmother _____.
- 4 A Who lent your brother the money?
B My parents _____.
- 5 A Who found you your flat?
B A colleague _____.
- 6 A Who brought you and your brothers and sisters those presents?
B Our grandparents _____.
- 7 A Who is going to buy your girlfriend a car?
B Her father _____.
- 8 A Who showed you the email?
B My best friend _____.

3 GRAMMAR pronouns

a Right (✓) or wrong (X)? Correct the mistakes in the **highlighted** phrases.

- 1 My wife and I are having a baby girl. We're going to call her Floise. ☒
- 2 I'd like you to meet my new boyfriend. Her name's Tom. ☒
His name's Tom.
- 3 Do you know where my keys are? I can't find their. ☐
- 4 I'm staying at my sister's house when I'm in the UK. I always stay with her. ☐
- 5 We aren't going to Emma and Ian's wedding. They haven't invited ours. ☐
- 6 Can I borrow your book, please? I can't find the mine. ☐
- 7 We go everywhere by public transport. The bus stops right outside our house. ☐
- 8 I've got two nieces. Her names are Sarah and Laura. ☐
- 9 My car hasn't got any petrol. Let's take your. ☐
- 10 It's my dad's birthday tomorrow. I mustn't forget to call him. ☐

b Order the words to make sentences.



- 1 has / present / bought / His / him / a / girlfriend / surprise
His girlfriend has bought him a surprise present.
- 2 parents / us / names / gave / very / My / unusual

- 3 friend / tonight / me / is / A / dinner / cooking / for

- 4 is / weekend / the / going / us / apartment / Our / to / neighbour / lend / his / for

- 5 is / dress / making / Becky's / a / her / party / mum / for

- 6 to / sell / car / to / I'm / my / neighbour / old / going / a

- 7 lot / writes / letters / of / friends / My / a / to / dad / old / his

- 8 box / gave / a / of / the / chocolates / We / hosts
