

READING. The history of English names. EP1. (pg.60)

Ex.1. Read the text and match headings with paragraphs 1-5.

There is one heading that you do not need. Listen and check

First names were important in England in the 11th century. The population was small and most people lived in villages. Surnames or family names weren't necessary because there weren't many people. When the French King William I invaded England in 1066, he wasn't happy with this. In his opinion, people needed surnames.

1.

These old surnames are common in modern Britain, but many first names are different. There is nothing new about naming a child after a famous person, but the type of celebrity is different today. In the past, the names of kings, queens, scientists, artists or writers were fashionable. For example, when Victoria was Queen of England in the 19th century, her name was very popular.

3.

In those days, there were different ways to choose a surname: some people used their job (Baker, Cook), some used places (Hill, Wood), and some used their nickname (Short, Brown) or the name of a parent (Johnson = son of John).

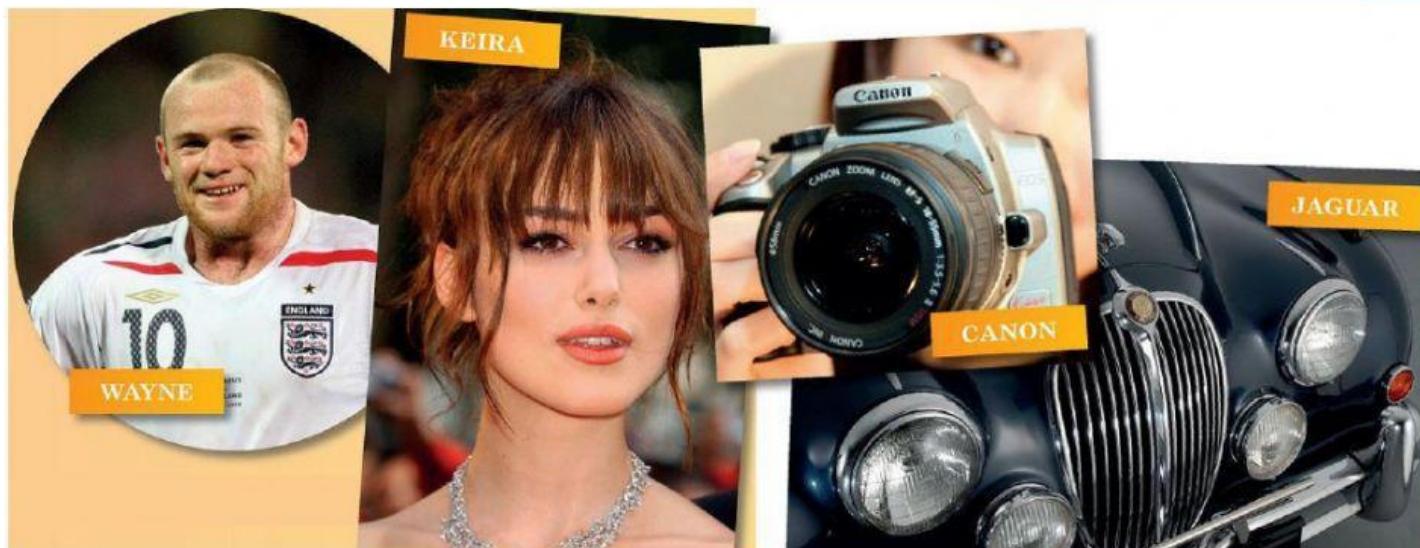
2.

Many British parents today name their children after pop stars, sports stars or film stars like Kylie, Keira, Brad and Wayne. They do this because they are fans of these celebrities. One football fan named his baby after the Manchester United team. His son has got a first name and ten middle names!

4.

Other parents want their children to have original first names and they sometimes choose the brand names of products. One year there were 298 Armanis, 49 Canons, 5 Jaguars, 1 Xerox and 353 girls named Lexus.

5.



Ex.2. Read the text again and choose the correct answer.

1. You can have lots of middle names in Britain.
2. Some children have brand names for names.
3. Surnames were necessary in England before the 11th century.
4. Brown and Short were nicknames in the past.
5. Many parents named their daughters after singers in the 19th century.