

New American Names

I. Fill in the blanks.

>>Hello. My name is Tuyen. It means _____. Tuyen is a pretty common name in Vietnam. In America, it makes me unique. I like that.

>> Our names are part of our individual _____, and they can tell something about our culture and where our families come from.

>> My American name is Michael, but my parents also gave me an African name to remind me of my ancestors. _____ means strength and energy in Kenya.

>> I was named Esther after my great-grandmother. Her real name was _____ [phonetic]. She changed her name when she came to America 100 years ago because the officials couldn't spell _____. Esther is a very, very old name. I like what it means, star.

>> I'm _____. Some of my friends call me Georgie. I don't mind it so much, but my grandfather says it would be a shame to erase my identity. I'm teaching my friends to say my name right in Spanish.

>> In China, naming a child is very important, because the Chinese believe that a name can influence the baby's future. No doubt that's why they named me _____. It means successful.

>> I'm Jyoti. My parents had an Indian ceremony to name me. It's custom for the name to sound beautiful, and to have a special meaning. Jyoti means _____ in Sanskrit. For me, that means bright and happy.

>> Do you think of your _____ as a special part of you? What does it mean to you?

II. Write a short paragraph about your name and origin. (Minimum of 50 words)

Your name often holds significant meaning and can reflect your cultural background or family history. Consider discussing the origins of your name, including its meaning and any stories associated with it. You might also explore how your name connects you to your heritage or family traditions, and how it has shaped your identity.