12 READING

A Look at the names in the article. Are any of the names popular in your country? What similar names can you think of?

IS YOUR NAME *Trendy?*

Some people have names that are very unusual and unique. Think about the actress Emily Blunt, for example. Her daughters' names are Hazel (an eye color) and Violet (a flower). Alicia Keys has a son named Egypt. How cool is that? Are these names trendy? The answer is . . . maybe.

Many names seem to be trendy for a while, just like clothes. In the United States, some grandmothers and great-grandmothers have names like Mildred and Dorothy. For grandfathers and great-grandfathers, it's old names like Eugene or Larry. These names usually come from Greek and Latin, but they're not very popular now.

Parents sometimes choose names because they like an actor or a famous person. That's how trends usually start. For example, David and Victoria Beckham have a son named Brooklyn and a daughter named Harper. Now, Brooklyn is a popular boy's name and Harper is a popular girl's name. In the United Kingdom, baby boys often get the name George because of Prince George, Prince William and Kate Middleton's first child.

There is also a trend for names that are things or places (like Egypt). Flower names are becoming more popular: Poppy, Daisy, and Lotus, for example. Space names are cool, too. More and more babies have names like Orion (a star), Luna (the moon), or Mars (a planet).

POPULAR NAMES FOR BOYS & GIRLS

Can you guess who helped make these names popular?

BOYS	GIRLS
Bruno	January
Leonardo	Angelina
Liam	Audrey

B Read the article. Then check (✓) the sentences that are true.

- ☐ 1. Baby names like Mildred and Larry aren't so trendy now.
- ☐ 2. Many babies are named after clothes.
- ☐ 3. Alicia Keys has a son named Hazel.
- ☐ 4. There is a famous prince named George.
- ☐ 5. Some girls' names are the same as flower names.
- ☐ 6. Babies never have names that are the same as planets or stars.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

12 READING

A Read the title and skim the blog posts. What are these people's jobs? Why do you think their jobs are hard to understand?

MY PARENTS DON'T UNDERSTAND MY JOB!

DANNY BANGKOK, THAILAND

Do you know what a social media manager is? Right, of course you do, but my mom doesn't. Every week, I try to explain my job to her. I work for a company that makes cars. My job is to tell the world how great our cars are. How do I do that? I get up early and write posts for social media. On weekdays, I go online around 7:00 a.m. and sometimes I work until 9:00 at night. The problem is . . . my mom doesn't use social media.

CARLA BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

It's so funny! I explain my job to my dad, but he just looks very confused. I'm a fashion designer. I always get up early on weekdays because I love my job. I have an office, and most days I draw pictures of cool new clothes, like dresses, jeans, and T-shirts. I also go to stores to look at fabrics to use for my clothes. My dad thinks I'm crazy! He just goes to a store and buys stuff to wear. He doesn't know someone has to design it first.

NICO ATHENS, GREECE

So, I'm a sociologist. I study people. Well, I study how people behave. I also study why we behave the way they do. My mom and dad don't understand why I do that. My mom says, "Nico, people are people! They just do normal things!" I don't agree. There are many reasons why people do the things they do, and I love to learn about that.

LISA LOS ANGELES, UNITED STATES

I'm a software engineer, but my dad doesn't know what that means. I tell him that software is the technology inside his computer, his phone, and his tablet. I make apps for smartphones. One app helps people exercise more. It's very cool because it tracks everything you do during the day. You put your phone in your pocket, and the app does the rest. The app tracks your walk to school, your bike ride on the weekend, and more.

B Read the article. Who does the following things? Check (✓) the correct boxes.

Who does something . . .	Danny	Carla	Nico	Lisa
1. . . . to help people get fit?	☐	☐	☐	☐
2. . . . to understand other people?	☐	☐	☐	☐
3. . . . to make things you can wear?	☐	☐	☐	☐
4. . . . to tell other people about their company?	☐	☐	☐	☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS

12 READING

A Scan the article and look at the pictures. In what year did each event take place?

The World's Most Powerful FEMALE MUSICIAN

Beyoncé Knowles-Carter is a singer, songwriter, performer, actress, clothing designer, and Grammy Award–winning superstar. Many people call her one of the most powerful female musicians in history. Beyoncé works really hard for her success. As she says, "I wanted to sell a million records, and I sold a million records. I wanted to go platinum; I went platinum. I've been working nonstop since I was 15. I don't even know how to chill out."

Many people talk about Beyoncé's energy on stage. She's an amazing entertainer. Millions of fans love her singing and dancing. Beyoncé uses many different styles of music, including funk, soul, and pop. In her career so far, Beyoncé has sold over 100 million records as a solo artist and another 60 million records with her group Destiny's Child.

Beyoncé marries Jay-Z.

BEYONCÉ FAST FACTS

- 1981 Beyoncé is born in Houston, Texas.
- 1996 Her girl group, Destiny's Child, gets its first recording contract.
- 2001 Beyoncé experiences her first time acting. She stars in *Carmen: A Hip Hopera* on MTV.
- 2003 She releases her first solo album, *Dangerously in Love*.
- 2004 She wins five Grammys at the Grammy Awards.
- 2005 Beyoncé starts an organization to help hurricane victims.
- 2008 She marries rapper Jay-Z.
- 2010 She wins six Grammys at the Grammy Awards for her album *I Am . . . Sasha Fierce*.
- 2012 Beyoncé has a daughter and names her Blue Ivy.
- 2013 Beyoncé performs at the U.S. president's inauguration.
- 2013 She releases a secret album online named *Beyoncé*.
- 2016 Beyoncé performs her song "Formation" at a huge sporting event.

Beyoncé performs at the U.S. president's inauguration.

B Read the article. Then number these sentences from 1 (first event) to 8 (last event).

- ____ **a.** She performs at a president's inauguration.
- ____ **b.** She is born in Texas.
- ____ **c.** She acts in a movie.
- ____ **d.** She wins five Grammys.
- ____ **e.** She releases her first solo album.
- ____ **f.** She has a baby.
- ____ **g.** Her group gets its first recording contract.
- ____ **h.** She helps hurricane victims.

LIVEWORKSHEETS