

PERIODIC TABLE SYMBOLS AND NAMES

Updated Version

Periodic table symbols and names are fundamental to understanding chemistry and the organization of elements. The periodic table provides a structured layout of all known chemical elements, each represented by a unique symbol and an official name. These symbols and names serve as universal identifiers for scientists, students, and researchers worldwide, facilitating clear communication and efficient documentation in scientific literature, laboratory work, and educational materials. In this comprehensive guide, we will explore the significance of periodic table symbols and names, delve into their history, and provide detailed insights into the most common elements, their symbols, and their properties.

Understanding Periodic Table Symbols and Names

What Are Periodic Table Symbols?

Periodic table symbols are shorthand abbreviations assigned to each chemical element. Typically composed of one or two letters, these symbols are derived from the element's English name, Latin name, or other historical origins. The first letter is always capitalized, and if a second letter is present, it is lowercase.

Why Are Symbols Important?

Symbols streamline scientific communication and documentation, allowing quick identification of elements in chemical formulas, reactions, and research papers. They also provide a standardized language that transcends linguistic barriers among scientists worldwide.

What Are Element Names?

Element names are the official titles assigned to chemical elements by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC). These names often honor scientists, places, properties, or mythological concepts, and they are used alongside symbols to identify elements uniquely.

History of Periodic Table Symbols and Names

The development of the periodic table and its symbols dates back to the 19th century. Mendeleev's periodic table laid the groundwork for organizing elements based on atomic weights and properties. Early symbols were often derived from Latin or Greek names, such as:

- **Au** for Gold (from Latin "Aurum")
- **Ag** for Silver (from Latin "Argentum")
- **Pb** for Lead (from Latin "Plumbum")

Over time, the symbols became more standardized, especially after the adoption of IUPAC guidelines, ensuring consistency across scientific disciplines.

Common Elements, Their Symbols, and Names

Major Elements and Their Symbols

Below is an overview of some of the most prevalent elements, their symbols, and their primary uses:

- **Hydrogen (H)**: The lightest element, vital in water and organic compounds.
- **Helium (He)**: Used in balloons and as a cooling medium in MRI machines.
- **Lithium (Li)**: Essential in rechargeable batteries and psychiatric medications.
- **Beryllium (Be)**: Used in aerospace materials due to its stiffness and light weight.
- **Boron (B)**: Used in borosilicate glass and semiconductors.
- **Carbon (C)**: The backbone of all organic life forms.
- **Nitrogen (N)**: Major component of Earth's atmosphere and fertilizers.
- **Oxygen (O)**: Essential for respiration and combustion.
- **Fluorine (F)**: Used in dental fluorides and refrigerants.
- **Neon (Ne)**: Famous for neon lighting displays.
- **Sodium (Na)**: Common in table salt and industrial processes.
- **Magnesium (Mg)**: Used in alloys and fireworks.
- **Aluminum (Al)**: Widely used in packaging, construction, and transportation.
- **Silicon (Si)**: The primary element in semiconductors and computer chips.
- **Phosphorus (P)**: Important in fertilizers and biological molecules.
- **Sulfur (S)**: Used in sulfuric acid, matches, and fertilizers.
- **Chlorine (Cl)**: Disinfectant and in the production of plastics.
- **Argon (Ar)**: Inert gas used in welding and lighting.
- **Potassium (K)**: Essential in plant nutrition and potassium compounds.
- **Calcium (Ca)**: Vital for bones, teeth, and industrial applications.
- **Iron (Fe)**: Key in construction and manufacturing steels.
- **Copper (Cu)**: Used in electrical wiring and plumbing.
- **Zinc (Zn)**: Coating for corrosion resistance and in alloys.
- **Silver (Ag)**: Used in jewelry, electronics, and photography.
- **Gold (Au)**: Valued in jewelry and investment.
- **Uranium (U)**: Used in nuclear energy and weaponry.

Less Common Elements and Their Symbols

In addition to the familiar elements, the periodic table includes less common and synthetic elements, such as:

- **Einsteinium (Es):** A synthetic element used mainly in research.
- **Fermium (Fm):** An element produced in nuclear reactors.
- **Oganesson (Og):** A highly unstable, synthetic element at the end of the noble gases.
- **Seaborgium (Sg):** Named after Glenn T. Seaborg, used mainly in scientific research.

These elements often have very limited practical applications and are produced in laboratories.

Understanding Element Symbols: Naming Conventions

The symbols of elements follow specific conventions:

- **One-Letter Symbols:** Used for the first 20 elements, e.g., H, O, N, C.
- **Two-Letter Symbols:** Usually derived from the element name or Latin origin, e.g., Fe (Ferrum), Au (Aurum).
- **Latin and Greek Origins:** Many symbols are based on Latin or Greek names; for example:
 - **Pb** for Lead (Latin "Plumbum")
 - **Sn** for Tin (Latin "Stannum")

The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) maintains and updates these symbols as new elements are discovered and verified.

How To Use Periodic Table Symbols Effectively

To maximize understanding and accuracy in scientific work, consider these tips:

- **Memorize common symbols:** Focus on the first 20 elements and frequently used metals and nonmetals.
- **Understand the origin:** Knowing Latin or Greek roots can help decipher unfamiliar symbols.
- **Use official IUPAC standards:** Always refer to the latest periodic table for official symbols.
- **Practice reading chemical formulas:** Recognize symbols to interpret compounds quickly.

Conclusion

The symbols and names of elements in the periodic table are vital tools in the world of chemistry. They offer a standardized language that simplifies complex information, fosters international collaboration, and enhances scientific literacy. Whether you are a student beginning your chemistry journey or a seasoned researcher, understanding these symbols and their origins enriches your appreciation of the periodic table's elegance and utility. Continuous learning about new elements, their symbols, and their properties ensures you stay updated in this ever-evolving scientific field.

By familiarizing yourself with the periodic table symbols and names, you gain a deeper insight into the building blocks of matter that make up our universe.

Periodic table symbols and names serve as the universal language of chemistry, allowing scientists and students worldwide to communicate complex information about elements efficiently. These symbols and names form the foundation of chemical notation, facilitating everything from academic research and industrial applications to everyday understanding of the substances that comprise our universe. Understanding the periodic table symbols and names is essential for anyone looking to deepen their grasp of chemistry, as they encapsulate the unique identity and properties of each element in a concise, standardized format.

Introduction to the Periodic Table Symbols and Names

The periodic table is a systematic arrangement of chemical elements, organized based on increasing atomic number and recurring chemical properties. Each element is represented by a chemical symbol, often derived from its English or Latin name, and a full element name. These symbols are universally recognized, allowing scientists across different languages and regions to communicate effectively.

Why Are Symbols and Names Important?

- Standardization: Symbols and names ensure consistency in scientific communication.
- Efficiency: Short symbols simplify complex chemical formulas.
- Educational Clarity: They serve as mnemonic devices for learning element properties.
- Data Representation: Essential for representing reactions, compounds, and molecular structures.

The Structure of Element Symbols

Typical Format of Symbols

Most chemical symbols consist of one or two letters:

- The first letter is always capitalized.
- The second letter, if present, is lowercase.

Origin of Symbols

Symbols are often derived from:

- English names (e.g., Hydrogen ? H)
- Latin names (e.g., Sodium ? Na from Natrium)
- Greek roots (e.g., Iron ? Fe from Ferrum)
- Historical conventions established by early chemists

Examples of Element Symbols

Element Name	Symbol	Origin/Notes
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Hydrogen	H	From English "Hydrogen"
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Helium	He	From "Helios," Greek sun god
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Sodium	Na	From Latin "Natrium"
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Iron	Fe	From Latin "Ferrum"
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Gold	Au	From Latin "Aurum"
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Silver	Ag	From Latin "Argentum"
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Carbon	C	Derived from Latin "Carbo"
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The Complete List of Periodic Table Symbols

The periodic table contains over 100 elements, each with its unique symbol. Here's an overview of some key elements categorized by their groups or properties:

Alkali Metals (Group 1)

- Lithium (Li)
- Sodium (Na)
- Potassium (K)
- Rubidium (Rb)
- Cesium (Cs)
- Francium (Fr)

Alkaline Earth Metals (Group 2)

- Beryllium (Be)
- Magnesium (Mg)
- Calcium (Ca)
- Strontium (Sr)
- Barium (Ba)
- Radium (Ra)

Transition Metals

- Iron (Fe)
- Copper (Cu)
- Nickel (Ni)
- Zinc (Zn)
- Silver (Ag)
- Gold (Au)

Lanthanides and Actinides

- Lanthanum (La)
- Cerium (Ce)
- Uranium (U)
- Plutonium (Pu)

Halogens (Group 17)

- Fluorine (F)
- Chlorine (Cl)
- Bromine (Br)
- Iodine (I)
- Astatine (At)

Noble Gases (Group 18)

- Helium (He)
- Neon (Ne)
- Argon (Ar)
- Krypton (Kr)
- Xenon (Xe)
- Radon (Rn)

The Significance of Element Names

While symbols are concise, the full element names provide more context, often reflecting the element's properties, discoverer, or place of discovery.

Common Naming Patterns

- Descriptive names (e.g., Carbon, from Latin Carbo, meaning "coal")
- Named after places (e.g., Californium from California)
- Named after scientists (e.g., Curium from Marie and Pierre Curie)
- Named for mythological or celestial references (e.g., Helium from Greek Helios)

Examples of Names and Their Origins

Element	Name Origin
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Helium	Named after Greek sun god Helios
Curium	Named after Marie Curie
Californium	Named after California

| Thorium | Named after Thor, Norse god of thunder |

| Niobium | Named after Niobe, daughter of Tantalus |

How Elements Are Named and Symbolized: A Historical Perspective

Historically, the naming and symbolization of elements have evolved through scientific discoveries and international consensus. Early chemists used Latin and Greek to create standardized symbols, which remain in use today.

Evolution of Periodic Table Symbols

- Early symbols were often abbreviations of Latin names (e.g., Au for "Aurum" for gold).
- Standardization was achieved through organizations like IUPAC (International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry).
- Regular updates incorporate newly discovered elements, often named after scientists, places, or mythological figures.

Tips for Learning and Remembering Symbols and Names

- Use Mnemonics: Create memory aids linking symbols to their names.
- Flashcards: Regular practice with flashcards helps reinforce recognition.
- Group Study: Learning elements by their groups can help associate properties and symbols.
- Visualization: Use periodic table charts to visualize element placement.
- Relate to Real-world Examples: Connect elements to their common uses (e.g., C for Carbon in diamonds, Au in jewelry).

Conclusion: The Power of Periodic Table Symbols and Names

Mastering the periodic table symbols and names is a fundamental step in understanding chemistry. These symbols condense complex information into a universally recognized language that facilitates scientific discovery, education, and communication across borders. Whether you're a student beginning your chemistry journey or a seasoned researcher, familiarity with these symbols enhances your ability to interpret data, understand reactions, and appreciate the intricate organization of matter itself.

By exploring the origins, patterns, and significance of element symbols and names, you gain a deeper appreciation for the elegance and logic embedded within the periodic table. Embrace the learning process, and over time, these symbols will become second nature?unlocking the secrets of

the elements that build our universe.

Question What is the symbol for Gold in the periodic table? The symbol for Gold is Au. Which element has the symbol 'O' and what is its name? The symbol 'O' stands for Oxygen. How many elements are currently listed in the periodic table? As of now, there are 118 confirmed elements in the periodic table. What is the symbol for the element with atomic number 1? The element with atomic number 1 is Hydrogen, and its symbol is H. Which element has the symbol 'Fe' and what is its common name? The symbol 'Fe' stands for Iron. What element is represented by the symbol 'C'? The symbol 'C' represents Carbon. Are the symbols for elements always one or two letters? Most element symbols are either one or two letters, with the first letter always capitalized and the second letter, if any, lowercase. What element has the symbol 'Na' and what is its common name? The symbol 'Na' stands for Sodium. How are element symbols derived? Element symbols are typically derived from their English or Latin names, often abbreviated to one or two letters. What is the significance of the color coding in the periodic table symbols? Color coding in the periodic table often indicates element categories such as metals, nonmetals, metalloids, or states of matter, helping to quickly identify their properties.

Related keywords: chemical elements, element symbols, periodic table, atomic symbols, element names, chemical notation, periodic table layout, element abbreviations, chemical elements list, periodic table symbols

What S In A Name

What's in a name: Exploring the Significance, Origins, and Impact of Names

Names are an integral part of our identity, shaping who we are and how we are perceived by others. From the moment we are born, our names become a defining feature, often carrying deep cultural, familial, and personal significance. But what exactly is in a name? Why do names matter so much across different societies and cultures? In this comprehensive article, we'll explore the multifaceted world of names—from their origins and meanings to their influence on identity, culture, and even destiny.

The Significance of Names in Human Society

Names are more than just labels; they serve as a symbol of identity and belonging. They facilitate communication, establish social bonds, and preserve cultural heritage. Throughout history, names have played pivotal roles in various aspects of life, including religion, social hierarchy, and personal identity.

Names as Personal Identity

A person's name is often the first thing others learn about them. It can influence first impressions, social interactions, and self-perception. For example:

- A unique or uncommon name might evoke curiosity or admiration.
- A common name might foster a sense of belonging or universality.
- Names can also reflect personal or familial aspirations, such as naming a child after a admired figure or ancestor.

Names and Cultural Heritage

Different cultures have unique naming conventions and traditions that reflect their history, beliefs, and values. These traditions preserve cultural identity across generations. For instance:

- In many African cultures, names carry specific meanings related to circumstances of birth or attributes desired for the child.
- In East Asian societies, family names often precede given names and carry historical significance.
- Indigenous communities worldwide often have naming rituals that connect individuals to their land, ancestors, or spiritual beliefs.

The Origins and Meanings of Names

Understanding the origins and meanings behind names reveals much about history, language, and cultural evolution.

Historical and Etymological Roots

Many names trace back to ancient languages and civilizations. For example:

- Names like Alexander (Greek origin) mean "defender of the people."
- Names such as William (Old German) mean "resolute protector."
- Arabic names like Ahmed mean "most commendable."

Etymology helps us understand the roots of names and how their meanings relate to cultural values.

Popular Name Sources

Names derive from various sources, including:

- Religious texts and figures: e.g., Mary, Joseph, Muhammad.
- Nature and the environment: e.g., River, Sky, Rose.
- Historical figures: e.g., Lincoln, Churchill.
- Virtues and qualities: e.g., Grace, Hope, Justice.
- Family heritage: e.g., honoring ancestors by passing down family names.

Modern Trends in Naming

Contemporary naming trends often reflect societal shifts:

- Increased use of unique, creative, or invented names.
- Revival of traditional or cultural names.
- Use of unisex names like Taylor, Jordan, or Alex.
- Adoption of global names influenced by media and celebrities.

The Impact of Names on Personal and Social Identity

Names influence how individuals see themselves and how they are perceived in society. They can impact opportunities, social interactions, and even psychological well-being.

Names and Self-Perception

Research indicates that names can affect self-esteem and confidence. For instance:

- People with uncommon or difficult-to-pronounce names may face challenges in social or professional settings.
- Conversely, individuals with culturally meaningful names often feel a strong sense of pride and connection.

Names and Societal Perceptions

Names can carry stereotypes or biases, affecting how others respond. For example:

- Certain names may be associated with socioeconomic status, ethnicity, or religion.
- Studies have shown that job applicants with traditionally 'white-sounding' names are more

likely to be called for interviews than those with ?ethnic-sounding? names.

Names and Cultural Identity

For many, names serve as a vital link to their cultural roots, especially in diaspora communities. Choosing a name can be an act of cultural preservation or adaptation.

Changing and Choosing Names: Personal and Cultural Considerations

The decision to change a name or select a new one can be deeply personal, influenced by various factors.

Reasons for Name Changes

Individuals may change their names for several reasons:

- Personal identity and self-expression.
- Marriage or divorce.
- Cultural assimilation or reconnection.
- Avoiding discrimination or negative associations.
- Legal reasons or to distance from a troubled past.

Choosing a Name

When selecting a name, considerations might include:

- Meaning and significance.
- Cultural or religious importance.
- Ease of pronunciation and spelling.
- Compatibility with family or cultural traditions.
- Uniqueness versus commonality.

Legal and Social Processes

Changing a name often involves legal procedures, which vary by country. These processes ensure that the new name is recognized officially and can be used in all legal documents.

Names in Popular Culture and Media

Names are also heavily influenced by popular culture, including celebrities, fictional characters, and media trends.

Celebrity Influence

Celebrities often popularize new names or revive old ones. For example:

- The name 'Kylie' surged in popularity after Kylie Jenner.
- 'Arya,' inspired by a character from Game of Thrones, became trendy among new parents.

Fictional Names and Their Impact

Famous characters can make certain names iconic. Examples include:

- 'Harry' from Harry Potter.
- 'Elsa' from Frozen.
- 'Luna' from Harry Potter and popular music.

Future Trends in Naming

As societies evolve, so do naming conventions. The future of naming might include:

- Increased use of gender-neutral names.
- Greater emphasis on multicultural and international names.
- Technology-influenced names, inspired by digital culture.
- Personalization and uniqueness, facilitated by online platforms.

Conclusion: The Power and Meaning of a Name

Names are far more than mere words; they are repositories of history, culture, and personal identity. They influence how individuals see themselves and how they are seen by others. From their etymological roots to their role in modern society, names encapsulate a wealth of meanings and significance.

While a name might seem like a simple label, its impact can be profound, shaping perceptions, opportunities, and relationships. Whether inherited, chosen, or changed, the name we carry is an essential part of our narrative—what's in a name is truly in the stories, traditions, and identities it embodies.

Understanding the depth and complexity behind names fosters greater appreciation for cultural diversity and personal expression. So, next time you think about your own name or someone else's, remember: behind every name lies a world of history, meaning, and human connection.

The Power of a Name: An In-Depth Exploration of Identity, Culture, and Influence

Introduction: The Significance of a Name

Names are far more than mere labels; they are foundational to personal identity, cultural heritage, societal perceptions, and even destiny. From the earliest moments of life, a name carries weight, imbued with meaning, history, and expectation. This exploration delves into the multifaceted nature of names—what they signify, how they evolve, and their profound impact on individuals and communities.

The Origins and Evolution of Names

Historical Roots of Naming Practices

Names have been integral to human societies for millennia. Their origins can be traced back to primal needs like identification, kinship, and social organization.

- Prehistoric Times: Early humans likely used simple sounds or gestures to distinguish themselves and their kin.
- Ancient Civilizations: Cultures like Egypt, Mesopotamia, China, and Greece developed complex naming conventions, often linked to religion, status, or occupation.
- Religious Influence: Names of deities, saints, and religious figures heavily influenced personal names, especially in societies where religion was central.

Evolution Over Time

Naming conventions have evolved due to various factors:

- Language Changes: As languages developed and diverged, so did naming patterns.
- Colonialism and Cultural Exchange: The spread of cultures introduced new names and customs.
- Modern Trends: Globalization and media influence have broadened exposure to diverse names, leading to both preservation and innovation.

Components and Types of Names

Given Names (First Names)

Usually assigned at birth, these are personal identifiers and often carry specific meanings.

- Cultural Significance: Reflect cultural values, religious beliefs, or familial traditions.
- Trends: Popularity can surge due to celebrities, historical figures, or media.

Surnames (Family Names)

Represent familial lineage and heritage.

- Patronymic and Matronymic: Names derived from ancestors' names (e.g., Johnson meaning "son of John").
- Geographical Surnames: Indicate origin or residence (e.g., London, Hill).
- Occupational Surnames: Reflect ancestral professions (e.g., Smith, Baker).

Middle Names and Additional Identifiers

Often serve to honor relatives, carry cultural significance, or distinguish individuals with common names.

Nicknames and Aliases

Informal or alternative names used within social contexts, often reflecting personality or affection.

The Cultural Dimensions of Names

Names as Cultural Symbols

Names can encapsulate cultural identity and societal values.

- Naming Ceremonies: Rituals marking the naming process, often involving community participation.
- Cultural Variations: Different societies have unique naming customs, such as:
 - Africa: Use of ancestral names, clan names, and spiritual significance.
 - Asia: Emphasis on meaning, with names often chosen for auspicious qualities.

- Western cultures: Focus on personal choice, with trends influenced by popular figures.

Language and Phonetics

Pronunciation and spelling reflect linguistic characteristics and can be a source of pride or challenge.

- Names may be difficult for outsiders to pronounce, affecting social integration.
- Spelling variations can emerge over generations, reflecting linguistic shifts.

Names and Identity

In many cultures, a name signifies more than identification?it embodies identity, social status, and heritage.

- Names and Social Expectations: Certain names may carry expectations or stereotypes.
- Name Changes: Personal or societal reasons may lead to name changes, such as immigration, marriage, or personal preference.

Names and Personal Identity

Psychological Impact of Names

Names influence self-perception and how individuals are perceived.

- Self-Identity: A name can shape one's sense of self; unique or meaningful names foster confidence.
- Perception by Others: Names can evoke assumptions, stereotypes, or biases.

Names and Self-Expression

Individuals may choose to:

- Adopt a nickname or alias that better aligns with their identity.
- Change their name legally to reflect personal evolution or gender identity.

Case Studies: Names and Success

Research indicates that:

- Names can influence hiring decisions, academic performance, and social interactions.
- Unusual or culturally distinctive names may face bias but can also foster pride and uniqueness.

Legal and Social Aspects of Naming

Legal Regulations

Most countries have laws governing permissible names.

- Restrictions: Avoidance of offensive, confusing, or inappropriate names.
- Procedures: Formal processes for registering or changing names.

Naming Trends and Their Social Implications

- Popular names often reflect societal values or events.
- Uncommon names may be seen as distinctive or rebellious.

Impact of Name Changes

Changing a name can:

- Help individuals align their name with their identity.
- Affect legal documentation, social relationships, and cultural assimilation.

Names in the Digital Age

Online Identity and Usernames

In digital spaces, usernames serve as personal identifiers, often influenced by existing names or personal branding.

- Unique Handles: Reflect personality, interests, or creativity.
- Anonymity: Some opt for pseudonyms for privacy or safety.

Implications for Privacy and Data

Names linked to online profiles can impact privacy, reputation, and personal security.

Globalization and Cross-Cultural Names

Digital platforms facilitate exposure to diverse names, leading to:

- Increased appreciation of cultural diversity.
- Challenges in pronunciation, recognition, and respect.

Names and Influence in Society

Names of Power and Fame

Certain names become iconic due to historical figures, celebrities, or political leaders.

- Branding: Names of influential personalities can influence consumer behavior.
- Legacy: Names of revered figures often carry expectations and responsibilities.

Names and Societal Stereotypes

Names can perpetuate stereotypes based on ethnicity, class, or gender.

- Recognition of implicit biases related to names is crucial for social equity.

Names and Cultural Preservation

Choosing traditional or indigenous names can serve as acts of cultural preservation and resistance.

Challenges and Controversies Surrounding Names

Mispronunciation and Cultural Insensitivity

Mispronouncing or misrepresenting names can be disrespectful and alienating.

- Educating oneself about proper pronunciation is vital.

- Some societies are advocating for greater respect for diverse names.

Legal Disputes and Name Rights

Conflicts over names can involve issues of identity, cultural appropriation, and personal rights.

Ethical Considerations

- The debate over naming children after celebrities or controversial figures.
- Respect for individuals' choices to change or retain their names.

Conclusion: The Deep Meaning in a Name

Names are potent symbols woven into the fabric of human life. They serve as identifiers, cultural touchstones, and personal narratives. A name can influence perceptions, unlock cultural heritage, and shape individual destiny. Recognizing the profound significance of a name encourages respect, understanding, and appreciation for the diversity and depth it embodies.

In essence, what's in a name is a reflection of history, culture, identity, and personal choice. As society continues to evolve, so too will our naming practices, but the fundamental human desire to be recognized and remembered through our names remains unchanged.

QuestionAnswer What does the phrase 'What's in a name?' mean? It suggests that the name of a person or thing is not as important as its qualities or what it truly represents. How does a person's name influence their identity? A person's name can impact their self-perception, cultural identity, and how others perceive and interact with them. Why do some cultures place a strong emphasis on naming traditions? Naming traditions often carry cultural, spiritual, or familial significance, helping preserve heritage and honor ancestors. What are some trends in popular baby names today? Recent trends include unique and gender-neutral names, as well as names inspired by pop culture, nature, and vintage classics. How can a name affect a person's career or social opportunities? Studies suggest that certain names can influence first impressions, opportunities, and biases in social and professional settings. What are the implications of changing one's name in modern society? Changing a name can be a way to reclaim identity, reflect personal growth, or align with cultural or gender identities, but it may also involve legal and social considerations.

Related keywords: name meaning, significance of names, name origins, naming traditions, cultural names, name symbolism, personal identity, name significance, name etymology, naming customs

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