What’s in a name?[[1]](#footnote-1)

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Write your name(s) !

Does your name have any meaning?

Do you know where you name comes from? Do you think it’s important, do you think it tells something about you?

Does your name show which country you come from?

Is your name easily translatable to English or other languages?

 If so what would it be in English, in other languages?

Have you got a nickname? Who gave it to you? Does it say anything about you?

How do people address you? Do all people address you in the same way? Why (not)? Did anything change at some point? Why?

How do you like to be addressed? How would you like to be addressed?

Do you think it’s the same in other traditions, have you already been surprised by the way people addressed you?

Do you keep traditions when naming a child in families?

Does the way the name is ‘constructed’ say anything about the society you live in?

* How does it influence a person when they carry the reference to their father in their name?
* Does it define them in any way? What does it tell you about the society
* Do you think it adequate for women/men to take their spouses’ surnames?
* Do your find it common/insulting that women’s forms of surnames in some societies/cultures suggest the idea of being owned?

What’s in a name?

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What can you tell about a new class just from the list of names? Can you predict anything about your future pupils?

1. LEA – Plurilingual and pluricultural awareness in language teacher education – A training kit – ECML – 2007

Author – Petr Najvar [↑](#footnote-ref-1)