

English Lesson

“How I picked a name” Level 01


Lesson Description

Everyone, however young, has given something a name: a pet, a toy, an imaginary friend – or a nickname to a real person or thing.

What name? Why did they choose it?

More importantly: why did you give it a name?

We name things without realising that, in a sense, we have the choice not to. Why do we name our dogs and cats? Why do we nickname our friends?

-  **Students report (verbally or in written work) on a name that they have given:**
1. **What did they name?**
 2. **Why did they name it?**
 3. **Why did they choose the name they did?**

Students at an appropriate level could further be told to research the name that they chose – do they know its meanings and origins, if not they must find out.

Lesson Aim and Objectives

Thinking and then talking about names – particularly names that we have given to things that matter to us – forces us to recognise the importance of language. The name – a word – becomes part of the thing: the name is part of the dog, or doll, or family car. This point can be heightened by asking students to imagine alternative names, perhaps discovering how inappropriate such replacements seem just because they are not “the right name”.

Explaining our choice exercise language expression and finding out about the name requires basic research skills.

Materials Needed

Worksheet