

SORRY?

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

f First names of the past

These old surnames are common in modern Britain, but many first names are different. There is nothing new about naming a child after a famous person, but the type of celebrity is different today. In the past, the names of kings, queens, scientists, artists or writers were fashionable. For example, when Victoria was Queen of England in the 19th century, her name was very popular.

c What? No surname?

1 ___ First names were important in England in the 11th century. The population was small and most people lived in villages. Surnames or family names weren't necessary because there weren't many people. When the French King William I invaded England in 1066, he wasn't happy with this. In his opinion, people needed surnames.

a The English choose their surnames

2 ___ In those days, there were different ways to choose a surname: some people used their job (Baker, Cook), some used places (Hill, Wood), and some used their nickname (Short, Brown) or the name of a parent (Johnson = son of John).

b Fans and stars

4 ___ Many British parents today name their children after pop stars, sports stars or film stars like Kylie, Keira, Brad and Wayne. They do this because they are fans of these celebrities. One football fan named his baby after the Manchester United team. His son has got a first name and ten middle names!

e Is it a baby or a car?

5 ___ Other parents want their children to have original first names and they sometimes choose the brand names of products. One year there were 298 Armanis, 49 Canons, 5 Jaguars, 1 Xerox and 353 girls named Lexus!

- 2 ★★ Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

businesswoman explorer hairdresser
waiter teacher chef mechanic
farmer nurse builder firefighter

A businesswoman works in an office.

1 A **builder** makes new houses and buildings.

2 A **waiter** takes food to people in a restaurant.

3 A **mechanic** works with cars in a garage.

4 A **hairdresser** cuts and washes people's hair.

5 An **explorer** visits new countries.

6 A **teacher** helps children learn things.

7 A **farmer** works with animals and grows food for people.

8 A **firefighter** stops fires in houses and buildings.

9 A **chef** cooks food in a restaurant.

10 A **nurse** helps people in a hospital.