



TAKE 5 WHAT'S IN A NAME?

A practical strategy for pronouncing names correctly

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

1 ASK LEARNERS WHAT NAME THEY GO BY AND PROPER PRONUNCIATION

- When learners share their name, listen carefully to where they place emphasis
- Don't be afraid to ask twice to help ensure that you get it right
- Write down the phonetic pronunciation and practice saying it out loud

2 CORRECT MISPRO- NUNCIATIONS

- If someone mispronounces your name or someone else's, politely correct them
- Correcting mispronunciations signals to others that names matter

3 DON'T USE OR QUESTION NICKNAMES WITHOUT PERMISSION

- Don't refer to someone by a nickname that you made up, especially if it refers to a learner's physical appearance or attire
- Avoid automatically shortening learner's names (e.g., not every Matthew goes by Matt)

4 APOLOGIZE IF YOU MISPRONOUNCE A LEARNER'S NAME

- Most of us have stumbled when saying an unfamiliar name; it's what you do afterwards that really matters
- Humbly apologize and ask the learner for the correct pronunciation
- It's helpful to take a note and practice the correct pronunciation privately

5 USE ONLINE TOOLS TO PRACTICE PRONOUNCING NAMES

- Online tools such as NameShouts are a valuable resource for learning how to pronounce names correctly

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