

## the ARTICLE (for teachers)

### What's in a Name?

In many countries, the woman takes her husband's family name when they get married. Long, long ago, this meant that the woman had become the property of her husband. Times have definitely changed.

Thankfully, the original purpose of the tradition has lost all of its meaning in most countries. What's more, with greater independence and the pursuit of careers, more and more women select to keep their pre-marriage identity. They either keep their maiden name or use a hyphen to add their husband's name to theirs. However, what options does a man have if he wants to take his wife's name instead?

Back in 2005, Michael Buday found the answer. He discovered that it's ridiculously time-consuming and troublesome to change his name. He would have to pay more than \$300 in licensing fees, and also need to place an advertisement in a newspaper for four weeks to announce the change. And that's not all because he would also need to attain a judge's approval too. Forty-three other states in the U.S. have similar, old-fashioned policies on the books. And although Buday decided to sue the state of California only, it may impact other states too. The lawsuit challenges the longstanding and outdated belief that a "proper man" doesn't take his wife's name.

Michael Buday had never really thought about a name change before he met Diana Bijon. But she raised the idea while they were dating. She had no brothers, and wanted to preserve her family name. Buday didn't know his father, and the first real father figure in his life was his fiancée's dad. As a result, he wholeheartedly agreed.

Teacher's Notes:

\* Underlined words in red typeface are the answers.

## the Article (for students)

Listen and fill in the missing sentences. Compare your answers with a partner, and then listen once more.

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Notes:

## STEP ONE

**Discuss:** Do you agree or disagree? Why?

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| a. | Your name is your identity.   |
| b. | Your name isn't as important as your character.                           |
| c. | It's important for a woman to change her last name when she gets married. |
| d. | Men should change their last name when they get married.                  |
| e. | Anyone should be able to change their name anytime they want.             |

## STEP TWO

**Questions:** Read as much of the article as you can in two minutes. Guess the answers to the questions below, then listen to your teacher read the article. Try to confirm your answers.

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| a. | Why did women take their husband's family name long ago?                                |
| b. | According to the article, why don't women change their names after marriage these days? |
| c. | What did California want Michael Buday to do in order to change his name?               |
| d. | Who first suggested Michael change his name?  |
| e. | Why did Michael decide to change his name?  |

## STEP THREE

**Fill in the Blanks:** Listen to your teacher read the article again. Fill in the blanks with the missing words.

## STEP FOUR

**Summarize:** Work with a partner to summarize the article in your own words.

## STEP FIVE

**Discuss:** Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers!

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| a. | Did you like this article?  |
| b. | Do you think it's fair that women are expected to change their names after marriage? Why/not? |
| c. | Do you think it's fair that it's so difficult for a man to change his name? Why/not?          |
| d. | Do you agree or disagree? Your name is part of your identity, so changing it changes you.     |