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Ready-to-use ESL/EFL Lessons

## **S. African capital to have new name**

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**27 May, 2005**

## **THE ARTICLE**

### **S. African capital to have new name**

**BNE:** The name of the South African capital city will soon change. South Africa's Geographic Names Council has voted to rename the capital from Pretoria to Tshwane. The council's decision to switch names was unanimous. Chairperson Tommy Ntsewa said the issue was fully discussed in a four-hour meeting on May 26. Pretoria's mayor said the name change will help South Africa break with apartheid, which ended in 1994. Hundreds of mainly white South Africans protested against the new name. They believe it is an attack on white South African culture. Former President F.W. de Klerk was furious. He said it was an attempt to erase history.

The council is also considering 35 other name changes. It wants to make place names more African. Many South African towns and cities have names that are reminders of colonialism and European rule. Pretoria was named in 1855 after a white man called Andries Pretorius. He settled on the site of present day Pretoria in the mid-eighteenth century. Tshwane is the name of a pre-colonial tribal king. It means "we are the same". The name has already been widely used for ten years as the name for the metropolitan area around the capital. The name "Pretoria" will still exist, but only as a city centre district inside the new Tshwane city.

## **WARM-UPS**

**1. HI, I'M NEW YORK:** Choose the name of your favorite city. Pretend you are that city. Walk around the class introducing yourself to other "cities". Ask each other questions and talk about what makes you a great city and why people should come to visit or live in you.

**2. MY CAPITAL:** Talk with your partner / group about the capital city of your own country. Is it the best city in your country? What do you know about the history of the city and its name? Do you like its name? What does its name mean to you? What is the city famous for?

### **3. WORLD CAPITALS:**

Talk with your partner / group about the list of world capital cities below. In which countries are they capitals?

Ask each other the question - "What images do you have when you hear the name ~ ?"

Which three do you most like and which three do you least like?

- Washington D.C.
- Paris
- Berlin
- London
- Cairo
- Nairobi
- Addis Ababa
- Beijing
- Brasilia
- Buenos Aires
- Lima
- New Delhi
- Karachi
- Bangkok
- Tokyo
- Pyongyang

**4. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words are most interesting and which are most boring.

*South Africa / capital cities / geographic names / Pretoria / apartheid / Africa / colonialism / city centers*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. For more conversation, change topics and partners frequently.

**5. CAPITAL ME:** The name of your capital city has changed to your family (or given) name. In pairs / groups, tell each other the new name of your capital city and explain why the new (your) name is better than the old name. If your partner is from the same country, discuss why your name is better as a capital city's name than your partner's family name.

Repeat this activity by choosing the name of a person you like a lot – perhaps someone who is very well known. (For example – *Bush City* or *New Michael Jackson*.)

## **BEFORE READING / LISTENING**

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Look at the article's headline and guess whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F):

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. South Africa's capital city is called Johannesburg.                | T / F |
| b. The name change was decided by just one vote.                      | T / F |
| c. The system of apartheid ended in South Africa in 1994.             | T / F |
| d. South Africa's last white president is happy with the name change. | T / F |
| e. Another 35 places in S. Africa may also change names.              | T / F |
| f. The name "Pretoria" is a reminder of colonialism.                  | T / F |
| g. The new name, Tshwane, means "we are different".                   | T / F |
| h. The name Tshwane was used this year for the very first time.       | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| a. voted       | remove         |
| b. decision    | current        |
| c. unanimous   | choice         |
| d. protested   | echoes         |
| e. erase       | decided        |
| f. considering | power          |
| g. reminders   | complained     |
| h. rule        | unquestioned   |
| i. present     | remain         |
| j. exist       | thinking about |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article (sometimes more than one combination is possible):

- |                                    |                            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| a. has voted to rename the capital | discussed                  |
| b. The council's decision to       | European rule              |
| c. the issue was fully             | against the new name       |
| d. white South Africans protested  | from Pretoria to Tshwane   |
| e. an attempt to erase             | century                    |
| f. make place names                | President                  |
| g. colonialism and                 | switch names was unanimous |
| h. in the mid-eighteenth           | used for ten years         |
| i. former                          | history                    |
| j. widely                          | more African               |

## WHILE READING / LISTENING

**GAP FILL:** Put the words in the column on the right into the correct spaces in the text.

### S. African capital to have new name

**BNE:** The \_\_\_\_\_ of the South African capital city will soon change. South Africa's Geographic Names Council has \_\_\_\_\_ to rename the capital from Pretoria to Tshwane. The council's decision to \_\_\_\_\_ names was unanimous. Chairperson Tommy Ntsewa said the issue was \_\_\_\_\_ discussed in a four-hour meeting on May 26. Pretoria's mayor said the name change will help South Africa \_\_\_\_\_ with apartheid, which ended in 1994. Hundreds of mainly white South Africans protested \_\_\_\_\_ the new name. They believe it is an \_\_\_\_\_ on white South African culture. Former President F.W. de Klerk was furious. He said it was an attempt to \_\_\_\_\_ history.

The council is also \_\_\_\_\_ 35 other name changes. It wants to make place names more \_\_\_\_\_. Many South African towns and cities have names that are reminders of colonialism and European \_\_\_\_\_. Pretoria was named in 1855 after a white man called Andries Pretorius. He settled on the site of \_\_\_\_\_ day Pretoria in the mid-eighteenth century. Tshwane is the name of a pre-colonial \_\_\_\_\_ king. It means "we are the same". The name has already been \_\_\_\_\_ used for ten years as the name for the metropolitan area around the capital. The name "Pretoria" will still \_\_\_\_\_, but only as a city centre \_\_\_\_\_ inside the new Tshwane city.

*break*

*voted*

*attack*

*name*

*fully*

*erase*

*against*

*switch*

*exist*

*African*

*considering*

*present*

*widely*

*district*

*tribal*

*rule*

## **AFTER READING**

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'south' and 'Africa'.

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the difficulty of the words in the gap fill and whether you like these words.

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. STUDENT NAME SURVEY:** In pairs / groups write down questions about capital city names.

- Ask other classmates your questions and note down their answers.
- Go back to your original partner / group and compare your findings.
- Make a mini-presentation to another group / the class on your findings.

**6. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall exactly how these were used in the text:

- soon
- unanimous
- meeting
- break
- white
- erase
- also
- reminders
- settler
- tribal
- metropolitan
- district

## **DISCUSSION**

### STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. Did this headline make you want to read the article?
- b. Do you think the name change is a good idea?
- c. Do you think it's good to rename cities and countries?
- d. What do you think of "Burma" becoming "Myanmar", or "Peking" becoming "Beijing"?
- e. Shouldn't the name of a city stay the same if it's famous?
- f. Are you good at geography? Do you know your capital cities?
- g. Are there any capital city names you don't like or agree with?
- h. Which name do you like better, Pretoria or Tshwane?
- i. Is a city's name important?
- j. Should there be a capital city of the world? Where should it be?

### STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. Did you like reading the article?
- b. What did you think of this news?
- c. Do you love the name of your country's capital city?
- d. Would you prefer another name for your country's capital city?
- e. Which city in your country has the best name?
- f. What is the history of your capital city's name?
- g. Which world capital city has the coolest-sounding name?
- h. Is history being erased when a place has its name changed?
- i. Do you think the names of all African cities with colonial names should be changed?
- j. Did you like this discussion?

**AFTER DISCUSSION:** Join another partner / group and tell them what you talked about.

- a. What question would you like to ask about this topic?
- b. What was the most interesting thing you heard?
- c. Was there a question you didn't like?
- d. Was there something you totally disagreed with?
- e. What did you like talking about?
- f. Do you want to know how anyone else answered the questions?
- g. Which was the most difficult question?

## **SPEAKING**

**NEW WORLD CAPITAL:** You are members of the new "World Capital City Council". In pairs / groups, make decisions about the new capital city. Choose from the lists below

### **1. TYPE OF CITY**

- a. New site
- b. A city that already exists

### **2. CONTINENT**

- a. Africa
- b. Antarctica
- c. Asia
- d. Australia (and Australasia)
- e. Europe
- f. North America
- g. South America

### **3. NAME**

- a. Worldia
- b. Worldtown
- c. Globevski
- d. Earthton
- e. Planetville
- f. Other

### **4. LANGUAGE OF STREET NAMES**

- a. English
- b. Latin
- c. Esperanto
- d. No language – just symbols
- e. No names – just numbers
- f. Other

### **5. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

- a. One representative from each world country
- b. One representative per continent
- c. Just representatives from the G8 country members
- d. Every country is leader of the council for 6 months - in order from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe
- e. Other

Change partners and compare your "World Capital City". Give each other feedback on the choices made. Combine the best of your different proposals to form one "perfect" plan. Show your changes to your original partner / group.

## LANGUAGE

**PARTS OF SPEECH:** In pairs / groups, complete the table based on words taken from the news article. Not all of the words have all of the parts of speech.

Noun	Adjective	Verb	Adverb
		change	-----
	decisive	decide	
switch		switch	-----
discussion	discussed		-----
	helpful	help	
	considered	consider	considerably
colonialism	colonial		colonially
width			widely
	meaningful	mean	meaningfully
existence		exist	existentially

Compare your answers with a partner's.

## **LISTENING**

Listen and fill in the spaces.

### **S. African capital to have new name**

**BNE:** The name of the South African capital city will soon change. South Africa's \_\_\_\_\_ has voted to rename the capital from Pretoria to Tshwane. The council's decision to switch names \_\_\_\_\_. Chairperson Tommy Ntsewa said the issue was fully discussed in a four-hour meeting on May 26. Pretoria's mayor said the name change will help South Africa \_\_\_\_\_, which ended in 1994. Hundreds of mainly white South Africans \_\_\_\_\_ the new name. They believe it is an attack on white South African culture. Former President F.W. de Klerk was furious. He said it was an attempt \_\_\_\_\_.

The council is also considering 35 \_\_\_\_\_. It wants to make place names more African. Many South African towns and cities have names that are reminders of \_\_\_\_\_ and European \_\_\_\_\_. Pretoria was named in 1855 after a white man called Andries Pretorius. He settled \_\_\_\_\_ present day Pretoria in the mid-eighteenth century. Tshwane is the name of a pre-colonial tribal king. It means "we are the same". The name has already \_\_\_\_\_ for ten years as the name for the metropolitan area around the capital. The name "Pretoria" \_\_\_\_\_, but only as a \_\_\_\_\_ inside the new Tshwane city.

## **HOMEWORK**

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find information on the South African capital city, Pretoria. Share your findings with your class in the next lesson.

**3. MY CAPITAL:** Make an information sheet on the history of the name of your country's capital city. Show it to your classmates in your next lesson.

**4. LETTER:** Write an imaginary letter to the chair of South Africa's Geographic Names Council. Tell him what you think of the new name. Show your letter to your classmates in your next lesson. Did you write about the same things?

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE:

- a. F      b. F      c. T      d. F      e. T      f. T      g. F      h. F

## SYNONYM MATCH:

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| a. voted       | decided        |
| b. decision    | choice         |
| c. unanimous   | unquestioned   |
| d. protested   | complained     |
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## PHRASE MATCH:

- |                                    |                            |
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| g. colonialism and                 | European rule              |
| h. in the mid-eighteenth           | century                    |
| i. former                          | President                  |
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## GAP FILL:

### S. African capital to have new name

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The council is also **considering** 35 other name changes. It wants to make place names more **African**. Many South African towns and cities have names that are reminders of colonialism and European **rule**. Pretoria was named in 1855 after a white man called Andries Pretorius. He settled on the site of **present** day Pretoria in the mid-eighteenth century. Tshwane is the name of a pre-colonial **tribal** king. It means "we are the same". The name has already been **widely** used for ten years as the name for the metropolitan area around the capital. The name "Pretoria" will still **exist**, but only as a city centre **district** inside the new Tshwane city.

## LANGUAGE:

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width	wide	widen	widely
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existence	existent	exist	existentially