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Beckham names daughter Harper Seven

http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1107/110712-baby_names.html

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12th July, 2011

THE ARTICLE

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1107/110712-baby_names.html

The world's press is speculating over the name of football star David Beckham's newborn daughter. David and his wife, former Spice Girls star Victoria Beckham, named their daughter Harper Seven. The couple has a track record for producing less-than-ordinary names. Their three sons are called Romeo, Cruz and Brooklyn. Harper is a traditional girl's name that is the second fastest rising girl's name on the ParentDish.com website. Reports are that David's three sons opted for the name Harper because it is a character from the Disney series *Wizards Of Waverly Place*, the boys' favourite TV show. David told reporters: "Victoria loved it because it's an old English name and even though Harper is an American by birth, she will always have English roots."

The big question is why the Beckhams chose Seven as their daughter's middle name. Perhaps the most obvious one is the name refers to the number David has on his football shirt when he played for Manchester United and England. It is also reported to be David's lucky number. "The Independent" newspaper in Britain published a list of other theories, including the possibility that Harper was named after her birth time and weight. The paper wrote: "Harper Seven arrived in the seventh month of the year, at 07.55 in the morning, weighing 7lb 10oz [3.18 kg]. These are important omens." The "Daily Telegraph" pointed out that unusual names might not always benefit children, saying: "When it comes to naming newborn children, a certain responsibility remains."

WARM-UPS

1. BABY NAMES: Walk around the class and talk to other students about baby names. Change partners often. Sit with your first partner(s) and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

speculating / newborn / track record / ordinary names / Disney characters / roots / big questions / middle names / football shirts / theories / birth weight / responsibility

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. NAMES: What are good ones? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners and share what you wrote. Change and share again.

	Really good	Really bad
Girl's name		
Boy's name		
Grandfather's name		
Grandmother's name		
Sports team name		
Car name		

4. RESPONSIBILITY: Students A **strongly** believe parents should think very carefully about their children's name; Students B **strongly** believe any name the parent chooses is OK. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. BOYS AND GIRLS: Rank these (boys' names first) and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners and share your rankings again.

- Barack / Hillary
- Brad / Angelina
- Brooklyn / Peaches
- James / Charlotte
- Wilfred / Gladys
- Thor / Princess
- Tiger / Venus
- William / Kate

6. DAUGHTER: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'daughter'. Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1107/110712-baby_names.html

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. The global media understands David Beckham's daughter's name. | T / F |
| b. The Beckham's have a history of giving their children unusual names. | T / F |
| c. Harper is fast becoming a popular girl's name. | T / F |
| d. Victoria Beckham likes Harper because it's an old English name. | T / F |
| e. The 'Seven' in Harper Seven is the LA Galaxy shirt David wore. | T / F |
| f. There is a seven in Harper's birth weight, birth time and birth month. | T / F |
| g. A newspaper said unusual names always benefit children. | T / F |
| h. The newspaper said parents have a responsibility when naming kids. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. former | a. chose |
| 2. track record | b. signs |
| 3. ordinary | c. evident |
| 4. opted for | d. history |
| 5. roots | e. particular |
| 6. obvious | f. ex- |
| 7. pointed out | g. origins |
| 8. omens | h. advantage |
| 9. benefit | i. normal |
| 10. certain | j. indicated |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. The couple has a track | a. obvious one |
| 2. the second fastest rising | b. by birth |
| 3. David's three sons opted | c. omens |
| 4. Harper is an American | d. benefit children |
| 5. she will always have | e. record |
| 6. Perhaps the most | f. remains |
| 7. It is also reported to be David's | g. for the name Harper |
| 8. These are important | h. English roots |
| 9. unusual names might not always | i. lucky number |
| 10. a certain responsibility | j. girl's name |

WHILE READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1107/110712-baby_names.html

GAP FILL: Put the words into the gaps in the text.

The world's press is speculating (1) _____ the name of football star David Beckham's (2) _____ daughter. David and his wife, former Spice Girls star Victoria Beckham, named their daughter Harper Seven. The couple has a (3) _____ record for producing less-than-ordinary names. Their three sons are called Romeo, Cruz and Brooklyn. Harper is a traditional girl's name that is the second fastest (4) _____ girl's name on the ParentDish.com website. Reports are that David's three sons (5) _____ for the name Harper because it is a character from the Disney series Wizards Of Waverly Place, the boys' favourite TV show. David told reporters: "Victoria (6) _____ it because it's an old English name and even though Harper is an American by (7) _____, she will always have English (8) _____."

loved
track
opted
over
roots
birth
newborn
rising

The big (9) _____ is why the Beckhams chose Seven as their daughter's middle name. Perhaps the most (10) _____ one is the name refers to the number David has on his football shirt when he played for Manchester United and England. It is also (11) _____ to be David's lucky number. "The Independent" newspaper in Britain published a list of other theories, (12) _____ the possibility that Harper was named after her birth time and weight. The paper wrote: "Harper Seven (13) _____ in the seventh month of the year, at 07.55 in the morning, weighing 7lb 10oz [3.18 kg]. These are (14) _____ omens." The "Daily Telegraph" pointed out that unusual names might not always (15) _____ children, saying: "When it comes to naming newborn children, a (16) _____ responsibility remains."

important
obvious
including
certain
question
benefit
reported
arrived

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1107/110712-baby_names.html

The world's _____ the name of football star David Beckham's newborn daughter. David and his wife, former Spice Girls star Victoria Beckham, _____ Harper Seven. The couple has a track record for producing _____. Their three sons are called Romeo, Cruz and Brooklyn. Harper is a traditional girl's name that is the _____ girl's name on the ParentDish.com website. Reports are that David's three sons opted for the name Harper because _____ Disney series Wizards Of Waverly Place, the boys' favourite TV show. David told reporters: "Victoria loved it because it's an old English name and even though Harper is an American by birth, she will _____."

The _____ Beckhams chose Seven as their daughter's middle name. Perhaps the most obvious _____ to the number David has on his football shirt when he played for Manchester United and England. _____ David's lucky number. "The Independent" newspaper in Britain published a list of other theories, including the possibility that Harper was named after her _____. The paper wrote: "Harper Seven arrived in the seventh month of the year, at 07.55 in the morning, weighing 7lb 10oz [3.18 kg]. These are important omens." The "Daily Telegraph" _____ names might not always benefit children, saying: "When it comes to naming newborn children, a _____."

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1107/110712-baby_names.html

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'baby' and 'name'.

baby	name
-------------	-------------

- 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 words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

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

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• former• record• rising• opted• old• roots	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• middle• number• lucky• weight• pointed• certain
--	--

STUDENT BABY NAMES SURVEY

From http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1107/110712-baby_names.html

Write five GOOD questions about baby names in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

BABY NAMES DISCUSSION

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

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'daughter'?
- c) If you had a/another child, would you prefer a boy or girl? Why?
- d) What do you think of the idea of people naming their baby after movie stars or sports stars?
- e) Do you think a middle or second name should be that of another family member?
- f) Do you prefer traditional or modern names for babies?
- g) What do you think of your name?
- h) Should a baby's name have a special meaning?
- i) What do you think of celebrity children being given unusual names?
- j) What do you think of these names of famous kids: Ziggy, Zowie, Peaches and Moonbeam?

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BABY NAMES DISCUSSION

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

- a) Did you like reading this article?
- b) Does a baby's name have an influence on his or her character later in life?
- c) Is a middle name important?
- d) What theory regarding the choice of Seven as a middle name for Harper do you like?
- e) Should baby names be masculine and feminine, or unisex?
- f) Do you like names from other cultures?
- g) Would a name like Peaches be an advantage or disadvantage?
- h) Should there be a committee to accept or reject unusual names?
- i) What name would you choose if you changed your name?
- j) What questions would you like to ask David and Victoria Beckham?

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LANGUAGE – MULTIPLE CHOICE

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The world's press is (1) ____ over the name of football star David Beckham's newborn daughter. David and his wife, (2) ____ Spice Girls star Victoria Beckham, named their daughter Harper Seven. The couple has a (3) ____ record for producing less-than-ordinary names. Their three sons are called Romeo, Cruz and Brooklyn. Harper is a traditional girl's name that is the second (4) ____ rising girl's name on the ParentDish.com website. Reports are that David's three sons opted (5) ____ the name Harper because it is a character from the Disney series *Wizards Of Waverly Place*, the boys' favourite TV show. David told reporters: "Victoria loved it because it's an old English name and even though Harper is an American by (6) ____, she will always have English roots."

The big question is why the Beckhams chose Seven as their daughter's middle name. Perhaps the most (7) ____ one is the name refers (8) ____ the number David has on his football shirt when he played for Manchester United and England. It is also reported to be David's lucky number. "The Independent" newspaper in Britain published a list of other (9) ____, including the possibility that Harper was named (10) ____ her birth time and weight. The paper wrote: "Harper Seven arrived in the seventh month of the year, at 07.55 in the morning, weighing 7lb 10oz [3.18 kg]. These are important omens." The "Daily Telegraph" pointed (11) ____ that unusual names might not always benefit children, saying: "When it comes to naming newborn children, a certain responsibility (12) ____."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. | (a) speculation | (b) speculated | (c) speculating | (d) speculate |
| 2. | (a) firmer | (b) former | (c) farmer | (d) framer |
| 3. | (a) track | (b) truck | (c) trick | (d) trunk |
| 4. | (a) quick | (b) speedy | (c) increased | (d) fastest |
| 5. | (a) from | (b) at | (c) for | (d) of |
| 6. | (a) born | (b) birthday | (c) birth | (d) birthing |
| 7. | (a) envious | (b) obvious | (c) oblivious | (d) previous |
| 8. | (a) to | (b) in | (c) on | (d) of |
| 9. | (a) theory | (b) theories | (c) theorize | (d) theoreticians |
| 10. | (a) after | (b) before | (c) later | (d) earlier |
| 11. | (a) in | (b) down | (c) up | (d) out |
| 12. | (a) remain | (b) remaining | (c) remained | (d) remains |

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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 out more about baby names. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. BABY NAMES: Make a poster about baby names. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. MY NAME: Write a magazine article about your name. Include imaginary interviews with yourself and your parents.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. LETTER: Write a letter to a baby name expert. Ask him/her three questions about baby names. Give him/her three of your opinions on baby names. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE:

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

SYNONYM MATCH:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. former | a. ex- |
| 2. track record | b. history |
| 3. ordinary | c. normal |
| 4. opted for | d. chose |
| 5. roots | e. origins |
| 6. obvious | f. evident |
| 7. pointed out | g. indicated |
| 8. omens | h. signs |
| 9. benefit | i. advantage |
| 10. certain | j. particular |

PHRASE MATCH:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. The couple has a track | a. record |
| 2. the second fastest rising | b. girl's name |
| 3. David's three sons opted | c. for the name Harper |
| 4. Harper is an American | d. by birth |
| 5. she will always have | e. English roots |
| 6. Perhaps the most | f. obvious one |
| 7. It is also reported to be David's | g. lucky number |
| 8. These are important | h. omens |
| 9. unusual names might not always | i. benefit children |
| 10. a certain responsibility | j. remains |

GAP FILL:

Beckham names daughter Harper Seven

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The big (9) **question** is why the Beckhams chose Seven as their daughter's middle name. Perhaps the most (10) **obvious** one is the name refers to the number David has on his football shirt when he played for Manchester United and England. It is also (11) **reported** to be David's lucky number. "The Independent" newspaper in Britain published a list of other theories, (12) **including** the possibility that Harper was named after her birth time and weight. The paper wrote: "Harper Seven (13) **arrived** in the seventh month of the year, at 07.55 in the morning, weighing 7lb 10oz [3.18 kg]. These are (14) **important** omens." The "Daily Telegraph" pointed out that unusual names might not always (15) **benefit** children, saying: "When it comes to naming newborn children, a (16) **certain** responsibility remains."

LANGUAGE WORK

- 1 - c 2 - b 3 - a 4 - d 5 - c 6 - c 7 - b 8 - a 9 - b 10 - a 11 - d 12 - d

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