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Level 6 – 15th September 2025

South Africa rules husband can take wife's name

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name.html>

A court in South Africa has ruled that a man can now take his wife's surname or have a double-barrelled name after marriage. Prior to this ruling, the country's Births and Deaths Registration Act had stipulated that a husband needed to apply to the Home Affairs department in order to take his wife's surname or to hyphenate it. However, even if a man submitted an application, there was no guarantee that it would be granted. The request was denied in many cases. The new decree stipulates that the law prohibiting a man from adopting his spouse's family name was discriminatory on the basis of gender. It says a man has the right to assume the last name of a woman he marries.

The court's pronouncement has been met with mixed reaction on social media. Many people lauded the decision as being forward-thinking and a sign that the country was providing greater equality. They highlighted the fact that the previous law was passed in the colonial, apartheid era and was overly paternalistic. They also say the law continues South Africa's progressiveness. The country was the first in Africa to legalize same-sex marriage. However, others have criticized the new ruling. They view it as being counter to the country's traditions. One user on X said it would "destroy the norms and values" of indigenous citizens.

Sources: <https://nz.news.yahoo.com/south-africa-rules-law-banning-145451042.html>
<https://businesstech.co.za/news/government/837351/big-changes-for-surnames-in-south-africa/>
<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/south-africa-s-top-court-says-banning-a-husband-from-taking-wife-s-family-name-is-unconstitutional/ar-AA1Mmd4C>

WARM-UPS

1. SURNAMES: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about surnames. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

court / South Africa / surname / marriage / guarantee / decree / spouse / gender / mixed reaction / social media / decision / equality / apartheid / same-sex marriage

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

3. MARRIED NAMES: Students A **strongly** believe that people should not change their names when they get married.; Students B **strongly** believe the opposite. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. GENDER/MARRIAGE NORMS: What usually happens in your country when people get married? What do you think of this? Do/Will you follow these norms? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	What Usually Happens	Your Thoughts	Follow?
Surname			
Career			
Housework			
Financial Decisions			
Childcare			
In-laws			

5. NAME: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "name". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. MARRIAGE CHANGES: Rank these with your partner. Put the best changes after marriage at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Eternal love
- Better finances
- Children
- Support
- Intimacy
- In-laws
- Happiness
- Shared housework

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. double-barrelled | a. Join two words with a dash/short line (-). |
| 2. prior | b. An official decision made by a judge or authority. |
| 3. ruling | c. Happening before something else. |
| 4. stipulated | d. A husband or a wife. |
| 5. hyphenate | e. A name that has two family names joined together. |
| 6. granted | f. Said clearly as a rule or condition. |
| 7. spouse | g. Officially given or allowed. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8. pronouncement | h. A system that kept people of different races separate. |
| 9. lauded | i. Something done to act against or oppose something else. |
| 10. colonial | j. Controlling people in a way like a father, not letting them decide for themselves. |
| 11. apartheid | k. Praised or spoken of with respect. |
| 12. paternalistic | l. The first people who lived in a place. |
| 13. counter | m. An important public statement. |
| 14. indigenous | n. Related to a country that controls another country. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name.html>

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

1. A court ruled that a man must take his wife's surname in South Africa. **T / F**
2. A man could automatically get a name change from the government. **T / F**
3. A court said it was discriminatory to deny a man a name change. **T / F**
4. The court says it's a man's right to change his surname upon marriage. **T / F**
5. There have been wholly positive responses on social media platforms. **T / F**
6. Most of S. Africa's laws regarding names were from pre-colonial times. **T / F**
7. S. Africa was the second African country to legalize same-sex marriage. **T / F**
8. An X user said the new law would destroy values of indigenous citizens. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. ruled | a. (life) partner |
| 2. submitted | b. accepted |
| 3. granted | c. take on |
| 4. spouse | d. put in |
| 5. assume | e. decreed |
| 6. pronouncement | f. native |
| 7. lauded | g. decision |
| 8. counter to | h. standards |
| 9. norms | i. praised |
| 10. indigenous | j. against |

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

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Prior | a. spouse's family name |
| 2. in order to take his wife's surname or to | b. same-sex marriage |
| 3. there was no guarantee | c. the last name |
| 4. prohibiting a man from adopting his | d. country's traditions |
| 5. a man has the right to assume | e. the decision |
| 6. The court's pronouncement has been met | f. hyphenate it |
| 7. Many people lauded | g. colonial, apartheid era |
| 8. the previous law was passed in the | h. that it would be granted |
| 9. the first in Africa to legalize | i. with mixed reaction |
| 10. They view it as being counter to the | j. to this ruling |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name.html>

A court in South Africa has (1) _____ that a man can now take his wife's surname or have a double-(2) _____ name after marriage. Prior to this ruling, the country's Births and Deaths Registration Act had stipulated that a husband needed to (3) _____ to the Home Affairs department in (4) _____ to take his wife's surname or to hyphenate it. However, even if a man submitted an application, there was no guarantee that it would be (5) _____. The request was denied in many cases. The new decree stipulates that the law prohibiting a man from adopting his (6) _____ family name was discriminatory on the basis of (7) _____. It says a man has the (8) _____ to assume the last name of a woman he marries.

apply
barrelled
gender
granted
order
right
ruled
spouse's

The court's pronouncement has been met with (9) _____ reaction on social media. Many people (10) _____ the decision as being forward-thinking and a sign that the country was providing greater equality. They highlighted the (11) _____ that the previous law was passed in the colonial, apartheid (12) _____ and was overly paternalistic. They also say the law continues South Africa's progressiveness. The country was the (13) _____ in Africa to legalize same-sex marriage. However, others have criticized the new ruling. They view it as being (14) _____ to the country's traditions. One user on X said it would "destroy the (15) _____ and values" of (16) _____ citizens.

counter
era
fact
first
indigenous
lauded
mixed
norms

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name.html>

- 1) a man can now take his wife's surname or have a _____
 - a. double-barrelled name
 - b. double-travelled name
 - c. double-paralleled name
 - d. double-buffed name
- 2) in order to take his wife's surname or _____
 - a. to hyphenate it
 - b. to hyphen eight it
 - c. to hyphenate it
 - d. to hyphen not it
- 3) if a man submitted an application, there was no guarantee that it _____
 - a. would be granted
 - b. would be grunted
 - c. would be grafted
 - d. would be grant it
- 4) adopting his spouse's family name was discriminatory on the _____
 - a. basest of gender
 - b. base is of gender
 - c. basics of gender
 - d. basis of gender
- 5) a man has the right to assume the last name of a _____
 - a. woman he marriage
 - b. woman he marries
 - c. woman he parries
 - d. women he marries
- 6) The court's pronouncement has been met _____
 - a. with mixture reaction
 - b. with mixed reaction
 - c. without mixed reaction
 - d. with mixed reactive
- 7) being forward-thinking and a sign that the country was _____
 - a. provide in greater equality
 - b. provision greater equality
 - c. providing greater equality
 - d. provide in greater equality
- 8) the fact that the previous law was passed in the _____
 - a. colonial, apartheid era
 - b. colonial, apart hide era
 - c. colonial, upper tide era
 - d. colonial, app are tied era
- 9) They view it as being counter to _____
 - a. the country's traditions
 - b. the country's trade additions
 - c. the country's trade missions
 - d. the country's traditional
- 10) One user on X said it would "destroy the norms and values" _____
 - a. of engenders citizens
 - b. of endangers citizens
 - c. of industrious citizens
 - d. of indigenous citizens

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name.html>

A court in South Africa has (1) _____ man can now take his wife's surname or have a double-barrelled name after marriage. Prior to this ruling, the country's Births and Deaths Registration Act had (2) _____ husband needed to apply to the Home Affairs department (3) _____ take his wife's surname or to hyphenate it. However, even if a man submitted an application, there was no guarantee that it (4) _____. The request was denied in many cases. The new decree stipulates that the (5) _____ man from adopting his spouse's family name was discriminatory on the basis of gender. It says a man has (6) _____ assume the last name of a woman he marries.

The court's pronouncement has been met (7) _____ on social media. Many people (8) _____ as being forward-thinking and a sign that the country was providing greater equality. They highlighted (9) _____ the previous law was passed in the (10) _____ and was overly paternalistic. They also say the law continues South Africa's progressiveness. The country was the first in Africa to legalize same-sex marriage. However, others have criticized the new ruling. They view it (11) _____ to the country's traditions. One user on X said it would "destroy the norms and (12) _____ citizens.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name.html>

1. What name could a man have after marriage beside his wife's name?
2. Where did a man in S. Africa have to apply to adopt his wife's surname?
3. What happened to name-change requests in many cases in South Africa?
4. On what basis was the old law about name changes discriminatory?
5. What does the article say a man has a right to after he gets married?
6. What kind of reaction was there to the new law on social media?
7. What did many people laud the new law for being?
8. When was the older law passed?
9. Which African country was the first to legalize same-sex marriage?
10. Who did an X user say the law would destroy the norms and values of?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name.html>

- 1) What name could a man have after marriage beside his wife's name?
 - a) a name chosen by a lottery
 - b) a government-chosen name
 - c) a double-barrelled name
 - d) a traditional name
- 2) To which department did a man in S. Africa have to apply to adopt his wife's surname?
 - a) the Home Affairs department
 - b) the Home Names department
 - c) the Name Affairs department
 - d) the Affairs Home department
- 3) What happened to name-change requests in many cases in South Africa?
 - a) They were reversed.
 - b) They got lost.
 - c) They were accepted.
 - d) They were not granted.
- 4) On what basis was the old law about name changes discriminatory?
 - a) tradition
 - b) gender
 - c) paternalism
 - d) maternalism
- 5) What does the article say a man has a right to after he gets married?
 - a) to chose his wife's name
 - b) to choose his own name
 - c) to adopt his wife's name
 - d) a happy life
- 6) What kind of reaction was there to the new law on social media?
 - a) a positive reaction
 - b) a mixed reaction
 - c) a non-reaction
 - d) a negative reaction
- 7) What did many people laud the new law for being?
 - a) thought provoking
 - b) a masterstroke
 - c) fair
 - d) forward-thinking
- 8) When was the older law passed?
 - a) post-apartheid
 - b) in colonial times
 - c) a thousand years ago
 - d) last year
- 9) Which African country was the first to legalize same-sex marriage?
 - a) South Africa
 - b) Kenya
 - c) Madagascar
 - d) Rwanda
- 10) Who did a user on X say the new law would destroy the norms and values of?
 - a) divorced women
 - b) all men worldwide
 - c) married woman
 - d) indigenous citizens

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name.html>

Role A – Eternal Love

You think eternal love is the best thing about marriage. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): better finances, having in-laws or shared housework.

Role B – Better Finances

You think better finances is the best thing about marriage. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): eternal love, having in-laws or shared housework.

Role C – Having In-laws

You think having in-laws is the best thing about marriage. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): better finances, eternal love or shared housework.

Role D – Shared Housework

You think shared housework is the best thing about marriage. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): better finances, having in-laws or eternal love.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look online / in your dictionary to find collocates, information on, synonyms for... the words 'husband' and 'surname'.

husband	surname

- 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:

• ruled • apply • guarantee • denied • cases • right	• mixed • sign • era • first • counter • values
--	---

SURNAMES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name.html>

Write five GOOD questions about surnames 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.

SURNAMES DISCUSSION

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

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'husband'?
3. Why shouldn't a man adopt his wife's surname after marriage?
4. Would you like to change your surname?
5. What do you think of double-barrelled surnames?
6. What do you think of triple-barrelled surnames?
7. How important is your surname to you?
8. Why is the married woman expected to change her surname?
9. Is the system of changing names after marriage discriminatory?
10. What is the meaning of your surname?

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SURNAMES DISCUSSION

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

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'surname'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. Do people get too excited when they comment on social media?
15. Why haven't all countries legalized same-sex marriage?
16. What do you think of the word 'maiden name'?
17. How bothersome is it to have to change your surname?
18. Should everyone keep their own surnames after marriage?
19. How progressive is it for a country to allow a man to change his name?
20. What questions would you like to ask the South African lawmakers?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

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

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name.html>

A court in South Africa has (1) _____ that a man can now take his wife's surname or have a double-(2) _____ name after marriage. Prior to this ruling, the country's Births and Deaths Registration Act had stipulated (3) _____ a husband needed to apply to the Home Affairs department in order to take his wife's surname or to (4) _____ it. However, even if a man submitted an application, there was no guarantee that it would be granted. The request was denied in many cases. The new (5) _____ stipulates that the law prohibiting a man from adopting his spouse's family name was discriminatory on the basis of gender. It says a man has the right to (6) _____ the last name of a woman he marries.

The court's pronouncement has been met with (7) _____ reaction on social media. Many people (8) _____ the decision as being forward-thinking and a sign that the country was providing greater equality. They highlighted the fact that the previous law was passed in the (9) _____, apartheid era and was (10) _____ paternalistic. They also say the law continues South Africa's progressiveness. The country was the first in Africa to legalize same-sex marriage. However, others have criticized the new ruling. They view it as being (11) _____ to the country's traditions. One user on X said it would "destroy the norms and values" of (12) _____ citizens.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) ruled | (b) rules | (c) ruling | (d) rulered |
| 2. | (a) kegged | (b) barrelled | (c) tinned | (d) canned |
| 3. | (a) for | (b) so | (c) what | (d) that |
| 4. | (a) hydrate | (b) hyphenate | (c) hyper | (d) hyperbole |
| 5. | (a) decree | (b) voucher | (c) consent | (d) vow |
| 6. | (a) assume | (b) presume | (c) resume | (d) consume |
| 7. | (a) mix | (b) mixing | (c) mixture | (d) mixed |
| 8. | (a) lauds | (b) lauded | (c) lauding | (d) laud |
| 9. | (a) colon | (b) semi-colon | (c) colonial | (d) colonoscopy |
| 10. | (a) level | (b) average | (c) underling | (d) overly |
| 11. | (a) numeral | (b) computing | (c) counter | (d) addition |
| 12. | (a) invasive | (b) invidious | (c) ingenious | (d) indigenous |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name.html>

Paragraph 1

1. have a lduboe-ealbrerdI name
2. latdipsetu that a husband needed to apply
3. or to tneapheyh it
4. a man submitted an naictioplp
5. The new reedec stipulates that
6. adopting his spe'ssuo family name

Paragraph 2

7. The court's oopcnmnerneu
8. Many people uldeda the decision
9. in the iocalnol, apartheid era
10. overly csptlrataini
11. tcrueno to the country's traditions
12. gosnnieudi citizens

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () apartheid era and was overly paternalistic. They also say the law continues South Africa's
- () barrelled name after marriage. Prior to this ruling, the country's Births and Deaths Registration Act had
- () criticized the new ruling. They view it as being counter to the country's traditions. One
- () granted. The request was denied in many cases. The new decree stipulates that the law prohibiting a man from adopting his
- () progressiveness. The country was the first in Africa to legalize same-sex marriage. However, others have
- () spouse's family name was discriminatory on the basis of gender. It says a man has the right to assume the last name of a woman he marries.
- () stipulated that a husband needed to apply to the Home Affairs department in order to take his wife's surname or
- () The court's pronouncement has been met with mixed reaction on social media. Many people lauded the decision as being forward-
- () thinking and a sign that the country was providing greater equality. They highlighted the fact that the previous law was passed in the colonial,
- () to hyphenate it. However, even if a man submitted an application, there was no guarantee that it would be
- () user on X said it would "destroy the norms and values" of indigenous citizens.
- (**1**) A court in South Africa has ruled that a man can now take his wife's surname or have a double-

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name.html>

1. man A now can his take surname wife's .
2. Stipulated a that needed husband apply to .
3. Take wife's his or surname it hyphenate .
4. It discriminatory was the on of basis gender .
5. last The of name woman a marries he .
6. Many lauded people decision the being as forward-thinking .
7. previous The was law in passed times colonial .
8. They the say continues law Africa's South progressiveness .
9. others, However criticized have new the ruling .
10. the Destroy and norms of values citizens indigenous .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name.html>

A court in South Africa has *ruling / ruled* that a man can now take his wife's surname or have a double-barrelled name *afterwards / after* marriage. Prior *at / to* this ruling, the country's Births and Deaths Registration Act had *stimulated / stipulated* that a husband needed to apply *to / up* the Home Affairs department in order to take his wife's surname or to *hyphenate / highfaluting* it. However, even if a man submitted an application, there was no guarantee that it would be granted. The request was *denied / decried* in many cases. The new decree *stipulates / spatulas* that the law prohibiting a man from adopting his spouse's family name was discriminatory *in / on* the basis of gender. It says a man has the right to *resume / assume* the last name of a woman he marries.

The court's pronouncement has been *met / gathered* with mixed reaction on social media. Many people *launched / lauded* the decision as being forward-thinking and a *resign / sign* that the country was *providing / provision* greater equality. They highlighted the fact that the previous law was passed in the colonial, apartheid *era / error* and was overly paternalistic. They also say the law continues South Africa's progressiveness. The country was the first in Africa *for / to* legalize same-sex marriage. However, others *were / have* criticized the new ruling. They *view / seem* it as *being / been* counter to the country's traditions. One user on X said it would "destroy the norms and values" of *outrageous / indigenous* citizens.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name.html>

_ c__rt _n S__th _fr_c_ h_s r_l_d th_t _ m_n c_n
n_w t_k_ h_s w_f_'s s_rn_m_ _r h_v_ _ d__bl_
b_rr_ll_d n_m_ _ft_r m_rr__g_. Pr__r t_ th_s r_l_ng,
th_ c__ntry's B_rths _nd D__ths R_g_str_t__n _ct h_d
st_p_l_t_d th_t _ h_sb_nd n__d_d t_ _pply t_ th_
H_m_ _ff__rs d_p_rtm_nt _n _rd_r t_ t_k_ h_s w_f_'s
s_rn_m_ _r t_ hyph_n_t_ _t. H_w_v_r, _v_n _f _ m_n
s_bm_tt_d _n _ppl_c_t__n, th_r_ w_s n_ g__rnt__ th_t
_t w__ld b_ gr_nt_d. Th_ r_q__st w_s d_n__d _n m_ny
c_s_s. Th_ n_w d_cr__ st_p_l_t_s th_t th_ l_w
pr_h_b_t_ng _ m_n fr_m _d_pt_ng h_s sp__s_'s f_m_ly
n_m_ w_s d_scr_m_n_t_ry _n th_ b_s_s _f g_nd_r. _t
s_ys _ m_n h_s th_ r_gh_t t_ _ss_m_ th_ l_st n_m_
_f _ w_m_n h_ m_rr__s.

Th_ c__rt's pr_n__nc_m_nt h_s b__n m_t w_th m_x_d
r__ct__n _n s_c__l m_d__. M_ny p__pl_ l__d_d th_
d_c_s__n _s b__ng f_rw_rd-th_nk_ng _nd _ s_gn th_t
th_ c__ntry w_s pr_v_d_ng gr__t_r _q__l_ty. Th_y
h_ghl_gh_t_d th_ f_ct th_t th_ pr_v__s l_w w_s p_ss_d
n th c_l_n__l, _p_rth__d _r_ _nd w_s _v_rly
p_t_rn_l_st_c. Th_y _ls_ s_y th_ l_w c__nt_n__s S__th
_fr_c_'s pr_gr_ss_v_n_ss. Th_ c__ntry w_s th_ f_rst _n
_fr_c_ t_ l_g_l_z_ s_m_-s_x m_rr__g_. H_w_v_r, _th_rs
h_v_ cr_t_c_z_d th_ n_w r_l_ng. Th_y v__w _t _s
b__ng c__nt_r t_ th_ c__ntry's tr_d_t__ns. _n_ _s_r _n
X s__d _t w__ld "d_str_y th_ n_rms _nd v_l__s" _f
_nd_g_n__s c_t_z_ns.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name.html>

a court in south africa has ruled that a man can now take his wives surname or have a doublebarrelled name after marriage prior to this ruling the countrys births and deaths registration act had stipulated that a husband needed to apply to the home affairs department in order to take his wives surname or to hyphenate it however even if a man submitted an application there was no guarantee that it would be granted the request was denied in many cases the new decree stipulates that the law prohibiting a man from adopting his spouses family name was discriminatory on the basis of gender it says a man has the right to assume the last name of a woman he marries the courts pronouncement has been met with mixed reaction on social media many people lauded the decision as being forwardthinking and a sign that the country was providing greater equality they highlighted the fact that the previous law was passed in the colonial apartheid era and was overly paternalistic they also say the law continues south africas progressiveness the country was the first in africa to legalize samesex marriage however others have criticized the new ruling they view it as being counter to the countrys traditions one user on x said it would destroy the norms and values of indigenous citizens

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name.html>

A court in South Africa has ruled that a man can now take his wife's surname or have a double-barrelled name after marriage. Prior to this ruling, the country's Births and Deaths Registration Act had stipulated that a husband needed to apply to the Home Affairs department in order to take his wife's surname or to hyphenate it. However, even if a man submitted an application, there was no guarantee that it would be granted. The request was denied in many cases. The new decree stipulates that the law prohibiting a man from adopting his spouse's family name was discriminatory on the basis of gender. It says a man has the right to assume the last name of a woman he marries. The court's pronouncement has been met with mixed reaction on social media. Many people lauded the decision as being forward-thinking and a sign that the country was providing greater equality. They highlighted the fact that the previous law was passed in the colonial, apartheid era and was overly paternalistic. They also say the law continues South Africa's progressiveness. The country was the first in Africa to legalise same-sex marriage. However, others have criticized the new ruling. They view it as being counter to the country's traditions. One user on X said it would "destroy the norms and values" of indigenous citizens.

FREE WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name.html>

Write about **surnames** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner's paper.

[illegible]

ACADEMIC WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name.html>

No one should change their surname after getting married. Discuss.

[illegible]

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 this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. SURNAMES: Make a poster about surnames. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. NO CHANGE: Write a magazine article about no one changing their names when they get married. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

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. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on surnames. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions on changing names after marriage. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. e 2. c 3. b 4. f 5. a 6. g 7. d
8. m 9. k 10. n 11. h 12. j 13. i 14. l

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F 2 F 3 T 4 T 5 F 6 F 7 F 8 T

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. e	2. d	3. b	4. a	5. c
6. g	7. i	8. j	9. h	10. f

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

1. a double-barrelled name
2. the Home Affairs department
3. They were not granted.
4. gender
5. to adopt his wife's name
6. a mixed reaction
7. forward-thinking
8. in colonial times
9. South Africa
10. indigenous citizens

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

1. A man can now take his wife's surname.
2. Stipulated that a husband needed to apply.
3. Take his wife's surname or hyphenate it.
4. It was discriminatory on the basis of gender.
5. The last name of a woman he marries.
6. Many people lauded the decision as being forward-thinking.
7. The previous law was passed in colonial times.
8. They say the law continues South Africa's progressiveness.
9. However, others have criticized the new ruling.
10. Destroy the norms and values of indigenous citizens.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. c 2. a 3. d 4. b 5. c 6. b 7. d 8. b 9. a 10. d

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)