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Level 6

The Czech Republic to be renamed Czechia

17th April, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1604/160417-czechia.html>

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

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1604/160417-czechia.html>

The Czech Republic is planning to adopt a snappy short-form name to ensure it has an easier time at home and around the world. It wants to be officially known by the noun 'Czechia' instead of incorrectly by the adjective 'Czech'. Government officials say this more concise name will avoid confusion over what to call the country. They are tired of being called by erroneous names such as Czecho or Czechland. A foreign office spokesperson said: "Our hope is that this step will overcome the problems we face with distorting the name and that the correct terms will dissolve into general knowledge." The government will seek a formal change in the United Nations database of country names.

The Czech Republic government said it is following the example of what many countries around the world have done for decades. A spokesman said the Commonwealth of Australia and the Republic of France are commonly known as Australia and France. The length of the three-word name, 'the Czech Republic,' already leads to short cuts being made. A leading beer maker states on its labels that its product is 'brewed in Plzen - Czech'. Some national sports teams drop the article 'the' and put just two words on their shirts - 'Czech Republic'. Foreign minister Lubomir Zaoralek said the name 'Czechia' is not widely popular but he said there seems to be no other alternative.

Sources: <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/04/15/europe/czech-republic-name-czechia/>
<http://www.dw.com/en/czech-republic-pushes-czechia-as-snappy-short-name/a-19190714>
<http://www.praguemonitor.com/2016/04/15/czechia-be-countrys-short-official-name-top-politicians-agree>

WARM-UPS

1. COUNTRY NAMES: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about country names. 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?

The Czech Republic / snappy / officially / adjective / government / problems / database / example / decades / length / short cuts / labels / sports teams / shirts / popular

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

3. NAME: What are the best names for these and why? Complete this table and share what you wrote with your partner(s). Change partners often.

	What?	Why?
Country		
Baby girl		
Baby boy		
Car		
Cake		
Song		

4. CZECHIA: Students A **strongly** believe changing the name to Czechia is a great idea; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. COUNTRIES: Rank these with your partner. Put the best names at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Brazil
- Japan
- India
- Canada
- Vanuatu
- Belize
- Papua New Guinea
- Switzerland

6. 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.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1604/160417-czechia.html>

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

- | | |
|---|-------|
| a. The government does not want to be called by the adjective 'Czech'. | T / F |
| b. A spokesman said the new name might lead to more confusion. | T / F |
| c. The Czech government hopes the new name will be general knowledge. | T / F |
| d. The Czech government will ask the U.N. to change its country's name. | T / F |
| e. The Czech government is following the lead of other countries. | T / F |
| f. A beer maker says its beer is made in 'the Czech Republic'. | T / F |
| g. Many Czech sports teams have three words on their shirts. | T / F |
| h. The new name 'Czechia' is widely popular. | T / F |

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

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. adopt | a. uncertainty |
| 2. ensure | b. in favour |
| 3. confusion | c. official |
| 4. overcome | d. top |
| 5. formal | e. take on |
| 6. spokesman | f. omit |
| 7. leading | g. get over |
| 8. drop | h. see to it |
| 9. popular | i. replacement |
| 10. alternative | j. representative |

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

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. ensure it has an | a. office spokesperson |
| 2. this more concise name | b. 'the' |
| 3. A foreign | c. change |
| 4. general | d. example |
| 5. The government will seek a formal | e. easier time |
| 6. it is following the | f. other alternative |
| 7. leads to short | g. popular |
| 8. drop the article | h. knowledge |
| 9. widely | i. will avoid confusion |
| 10. there seems to be no | j. cuts being made |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1604/160417-czechia.html>

The Czech Republic is planning to adopt a (1) _____ short-form name to ensure it has an easier time at home and around the world. It wants to be (2) _____ known by the noun 'Czechia' instead of incorrectly by the (3) _____ 'Czech'. Government officials say this more concise name will avoid (4) _____ over what to call the country. They are tired of being called by (5) _____ names such as Czecho or Czechland. A foreign office spokesperson said: "Our hope is that this step will overcome the problems we (6) _____ with distorting the name and that the correct terms will dissolve into (7) _____ knowledge." The government will seek a formal change in the United Nations (8) _____ of country names.

erroneous
officially
general
snappy
database
confusion
face
adjective

The Czech Republic government said it is following the (9) _____ of what many countries around the world have done for (10) _____. A spokesman said the Commonwealth of Australia and the Republic of France are (11) _____ known as Australia and France. The length of the three-word name, 'the Czech Republic,' already leads to short (12) _____ being made. A leading beer maker states on its labels that its product is '(13) _____ in Plzen - Czech'. Some national sports teams drop the (14) _____ 'the' and put just two words on their shirts - 'Czech Republic'. Foreign minister Lubomir Zaoralek said the name 'Czechia' is not widely (15) _____ but he said there seems to be no other (16) _____.

'brewed
popular
decades
cuts
alternative
example
article
commonly

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1604/160417-czechia.html>

- 1) The Czech Republic is planning to adopt a snappy _____
 - a. short-forms name
 - b. short-formed name
 - c. short-form name
 - d. short-form names
- 2) known by the noun 'Czechia' instead of incorrectly by _____
 - a. the adjectives 'Czech'
 - b. the adjectival 'Czech'
 - c. the adjective 'Czech'
 - d. the injective 'Czech'
- 3) A foreign office spokesperson said: "Our hope is that this step will overcome the _____"
 - a. problems we face
 - b. problems we head
 - c. problems we skull
 - d. problems we nose
- 4) the name and that the correct terms will dissolve into _____
 - a. generally knowledge
 - b. generals knowledge
 - c. general knowledgeable
 - d. general knowledge
- 5) The government will seek a formal change in the United Nations database _____
 - a. of country names
 - b. of country mains
 - c. of country means
 - d. of country gnomes
- 6) the example of what many countries around the world have _____
 - a. done four decades
 - b. done for decades
 - c. done from decades
 - d. done of decades
- 7) the three-word name, 'the Czech Republic,' already leads to short _____
 - a. cats being made
 - b. cuts being made
 - c. cots being made
 - d. caps being made
- 8) A leading beer maker states on its labels that its product is _____
 - a. brewed in Plzen
 - b. brew din Plzen
 - c. brew in Plzen
 - d. brewed in Plzen
- 9) Some national sports teams drop the article 'the' and put just two words _____
 - a. in their shirts
 - b. on their shirts
 - c. on them shirts
 - d. in them shirts
- 10) the name 'Czechia' is not widely popular but he said there seems to be _____
 - a. no others alternative
 - b. no other alternative
 - c. no other alternatives
 - d. no others alternatives

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1604/160417-czechia.html>

The Czech Republic is planning (1) _____ snappy short-form name (2) _____ an easier time at home and around the world. It wants to be officially known by the noun 'Czechia' instead of incorrectly (3) _____ 'Czech'. Government officials say this more concise name will avoid confusion over what to call the country. They are tired of being (4) _____ names such as Czecho or Czechland. A foreign office spokesperson said: "Our hope is that this step will overcome the problems (5) _____ distorting the name and that the correct terms will dissolve into general knowledge." The government will seek (6) _____ in the United Nations database of country names.

The Czech Republic government said it is following (7) _____ what many countries around the world have done for decades. A spokesman said the Commonwealth of Australia and the Republic of France are (8) _____ Australia and France. The length of the three-word name, 'the Czech Republic,' already leads to short (9) _____. A leading beer maker states on its labels that its product (10) _____ Plzen - Czech'. Some national sports teams (11) _____ 'the' and put just two words on their shirts - 'Czech Republic'. Foreign minister Lubomir Zaoralek said the name 'Czechia' is not widely popular but he said there (12) _____ no other alternative.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1604/160417-czechia.html>

1. Where does the Czech Republic want to have an easier time?

2. What will the more concise name avoid?

3. What are Czech officials tired of their country being called?

4. What do officials hope the name Czechia will become?

5. Where is the database that the name Czechia will be changed in?

6. Which two countries did the article cite as an example?

7. What has had short cuts applied to it?

8. Where did a beer maker write 'brewed in Plzen - Czech'?

9. What did some national sports teams drop?

10. What did the Czech foreign minister say about the name 'Czechia'?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1604/160417-czechia.html>

1. Where does the Czech Republic want to have an easier time?
 - a) the United Nations
 - b) at football matches
 - c) in Europe
 - d) at home and abroad
2. What will the more concise name avoid?
 - a) the United Nations
 - b) confusion
 - c) Czechs
 - d) extra expenses
3. What are Czech officials tired of their country being called?
 - a) the United Nations
 - b) boring
 - c) erroneous names
 - d) a country
4. What do officials hope the name Czechia will become?
 - a) general knowledge
 - b) an Internet hit
 - c) popular
 - d) a success
5. Where is the database that the name Czechia will be changed in?
 - a) the IMF
 - b) Brussels
 - c) the United Nations
 - d) Prague
6. Which two countries did the article cite as an example?
 - a) Latvia and Estonia
 - b) Australia and France
 - c) North and South Korea
 - d) Slovakia and Slovenia
7. What has had short cuts applied to it?
 - a) Czech beer
 - b) the United Nations
 - c) Czech beef
 - d) the name 'the Czech Republic'
8. Where did a beer maker write 'brewed in Pilsen - Czech'?
 - a) a label
 - b) a book
 - c) the United Nations
 - d) Prague
9. What did some national sports teams drop?
 - a) the ball
 - b) a hint
 - c) the article 'the'
 - d) players
10. What did the Czech foreign minister say about the name 'Czechia'?
 - a) it would change the country
 - b) it wasn't popular
 - c) nothing
 - d) it was great

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1604/160417-czechia.html>

Role A – Japan

You think Japan is the best country name. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their names aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these names (and why): India, Switzerland or Papua New Guinea.

Role B – India

You think India is the best country name. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their names aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these names (and why): Japan, Switzerland or Papua New Guinea.

Role C – Switzerland

You think Switzerland is the best country name. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their names aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these names (and why): India, Japan or Papua New Guinea.

Role D – Papua New Guinea

You think Papua New Guinea is the best country name. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their names aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these names (and why): India, Switzerland or Japan.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1604/160417-czechia.html>

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

noun	adjective

- 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">• snappy• noun• avoid• hope• general• database	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• example• known• cuts• national• two• other
---	---

COUNTRY NAMES SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1604/160417-czechia.html>

Write five GOOD questions about country 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.

COUNTRY NAMES DISCUSSION

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

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'country'?
- 3) What do you think about what you read?
- 4) What do you know about your country's name?
- 5) What country names do you really like?
- 6) What do you think of the name 'Czechia'?
- 7) How important is it for a country to have a 'snappy' name?
- 8) What country names are confusing?
- 9) What is the difference between England, Great Britain and the United Kingdom?
- 10) Which name is better, USA or United States of America?

The Czech Republic to be renamed Czechia – 17th April, 2016
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COUNTRY NAMES 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 your country's name?
- 13) Could the Czech government have chosen a better name?
- 14) How do you feel when you hear your country's name?
- 15) What do you know about the history of your country's name?
- 16) What country names do you think are most romantic?
- 17) Would there be any alternative name to your country?
- 18) Why do so many countries include the word 'republic' in their name?
- 19) What is the difference between Holland and the Netherlands?
- 20) What would you like to ask the Czech foreign minister?

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 <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1604/160417-czechia.html>

The Czech Republic is planning to adopt a (1) _____ short-form name to ensure it has an easier time at home and around the world. It wants to be officially known by the noun 'Czechia' (2) _____ of incorrectly by the adjective 'Czech'. Government officials say this more (3) _____ name will avoid confusion over what to call the country. They are tired of being called by (4) _____ names such as Czecho or Czechland. A foreign office spokesperson said: "Our hope is that this step will overcome the problems we face (5) _____ distorting the name and that the correct terms will dissolve into general knowledge." The government will seek a formal change in the United Nations (6) _____ of country names.

The Czech Republic government said it is following the (7) _____ of what many countries around the world have done for decades. A spokesman said the Commonwealth of Australia and the Republic of France are (8) _____ known as Australia and France. The length of the three-word name, 'the Czech Republic,' already leads to short (9) _____ being made. A leading beer maker states on its labels that its product is 'brewed in Plzen - Czech'. Some national sports teams drop the (10) _____ 'the' and put just two words on their shirts - 'Czech Republic'. Foreign minister Lubomir Zaoralek said the name 'Czechia' is not (11) _____ popular but he said there seems to be no (12) _____ alternative.

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

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) nappy | (b) snappy | (c) nippy | (d) snippy |
| 2. | (a) prefer | (b) instead | (c) rather | (d) belong |
| 3. | (a) contains | (b) consensus | (c) consent | (d) concise |
| 4. | (a) error | (b) erroneous | (c) err | (d) erroneously |
| 5. | (a) as | (b) with | (c) so | (d) at |
| 6. | (a) base | (b) data | (c) database | (d) bases |
| 7. | (a) compartment | (b) answer | (c) example | (d) role |
| 8. | (a) common | (b) commons | (c) commonly | (d) commoner |
| 9. | (a) clots | (b) cots | (c) cats | (d) cuts |
| 10. | (a) article | (b) noun | (c) adjective | (d) verb |
| 11. | (a) widely | (b) widen | (c) widens | (d) widened |
| 12. | (a) alternatively | (b) alternate | (c) alternative | (d) alter |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1604/160417-czechia.html>

Paragraph 1

1. focilyifal known by the noun 'Czechia'
2. say this more ienoccs name
3. being called by nourerose names
4. gtdsiirnto the name
5. dsiolvse into general knowledge
6. the United Nations baadtase

Paragraph 2

7. The Czech Republic tnmveogenr
8. done for cededsa
9. ynlomomc known as Australia
10. wbrdee in Plzen
11. not widely loaurpp
12. there seems to be no other evitarealtn

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1604/160417-czechia.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

()	around the world. It wants to be officially known by the noun 'Czechia' instead of incorrectly by the
()	decades. A spokesman said the Commonwealth of Australia and the Republic of France are commonly known
()	office spokesperson said: "Our hope is that this step will overcome the problems we
()	widely popular but he said there seems to be no other alternative.
()	cuts being made. A leading beer maker states on its labels that its product is 'brewed in Plzen - Czech'. Some national
(1)	The Czech Republic is planning to adopt a snappy short-form name to ensure it has an easier time at home and
()	The Czech Republic government said it is following the example of what many countries around the world have done for
()	shirts - 'Czech Republic'. Foreign minister Lubomir Zaoralek said the name 'Czechia' is not
()	call the country. They are tired of being called by erroneous names such as Czecho or Czechland. A foreign
()	as Australia and France. The length of the three-word name, 'the Czech Republic,' already leads to short
()	seek a formal change in the United Nations database of country names.
()	face with distorting the name and that the correct terms will dissolve into general knowledge." The government will
()	adjective 'Czech'. Government officials say this more concise name will avoid confusion over what to
()	sports teams drop the article 'the' and put just two words on their

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1604/160417-czechia.html>

1. adopt short name to snappy form Planning a - .

2. and home at time easier an has It world the around .

3. more This confusion avoid will name concise .

4. tired called names are being erroneous They of by .

5. will U.N. change seek The in a government the formal .

6. around the What world many have countries done .

7. name word - three the of length The Republic' Czech 'the .

8. is product its that labels its on States Plzen' in 'brewed .

9. sports 'the' teams drop Some the national article .

10. other He seems no there be alternative said to .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1604/160417-czechia.html>

The Czech Republic is planning to *adopt / adapt* a snappy short-form name to ensure it has an easier time at home and *abound / around* the world. It wants to be officially *known / knowing* by the noun 'Czechia' instead of incorrectly by the adjective 'Czech'. Government officials say this more *concisely / concise* name will avoid *confusion / confusing* over what to call the country. They are tired of being called by *erroneous / error* names such as Czecho or Czechland. A foreign *office / official* spokesperson said: "Our hope is that this step will overcome the problems we *head / face* with distorting the name and that the correct terms will *resolve / dissolve* into general knowledge." The government will seek a formal change in the United Nations database *of / at* country names.

The Czech Republic government said it is *following / followed* the example of what many countries around the world have done for *decadence / decades*. A spokesman said the Commonwealth of Australia and the Republic of France are *commonly / common* known as Australia and France. The *length / long* of the three-word name, 'the Czech Republic,' already leads to *short / long* cuts being made. A *loading / leading* beer maker *states / starts* on its labels that its product is 'brewed in Plzen - Czech'. Some national sports teams *drop / droop* the article 'the' and put just two words on their shirts - 'Czech Republic'. Foreign *ministry / minister* Lubomir Zaoralek said the name 'Czechia' is not widely popular but he said there *seems / seams* to be no other alternative.

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

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

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1604/160417-czechia.html>

Th_ Cz_ch R_p_bl_c _s pl_nn_ng t_ _d_pt _ sn_ppy
sh_rt-f_rm n_m_ t_ _ns_r_ t_h_s_n _s_r_t_m_ t
h_m_ _nd _r_ _nd th_ w_rld. _t w_nts t_ b_ _ff_c__lly
kn_wn by th_ n__n 'Cz_ch__' _nst_d _f _nc_rr_ctly by
th_ _dj_ct_v_ 'Cz_ch'. G_v_rnm_nt _ff_c__ls s_y th_s
m_r_c_nc_s_ n_m_ w_ll _v__d c_nfs__n _v_r wh_t t_
c_ll th_ c__ntry. Th_y _r_ t_r_d _f b__ng c_ll_d by
_rr_n__s n_m_s s_ch _s Cz_ch_ _r Cz_chl_nd. _
f_r__gn _ff_c_ sp_k sp_rs_n s__d: " _r h_p_ _s th_t
th_s st_p w_ll _v_rc_m_ th_ pr_bl_ms w_ f_c_ w_th
d_st_rt_ng th_ n_m_ _nd th_t th_ c_rr_ct t_rms w_ll
d_ss_lv_ _nt_ g_n_r_l kn_wl_dg_." Th_ g_v_rnm_nt
w_ll s__k _f_rm_l ch_ng_ _n th_ _n_t_d N_t__ns
d_t_b_s_ _f c__ntry n_m_s.

Th_ Cz_ch R_p_bl_c g_v_rnm_nt s__d _t _s f_ll_w_ng
th_ _xmpl_ _f wh_t m_ny c__ntr__s _r_ _nd th_ w_rld
h_v_ d_n_ _f_r d_c_d_s. _ sp_k sm_n s__d th_
C_mm_nw__lth _f __str_l__ _nd th_ R_p_bl_c _f Fr_nc_
r c_mm_nly kn_wn _s __str_l__ _nd Fr_nc_. Th_
l_ngth _f th_ thr__-w_rd n_m_, 'th_ Cz_ch R_p_bl_c,'
_lr__dy l__ds t_ sh_rt c_ts b__ng m_d_. _ l__d_ng
b__r m_k_r st_t_s _n_ts l_b_ls th_t ts pr_d_ct _s
'br_w_d _n Plz_n - Cz_ch'. S_m_n_t__n_l sp_rts t__ms
dr_p th_ _rt_cl_ 'th_' _nd p_t j_st tw_ w_rds _n th__r
sh_rts - 'Cz_ch R_p_bl_c'. F_r__gn m_n_st_r L_b_m_r
Z__r_l_k s__d th_ n_m_ 'Cz_ch__' _s n_t w_d_ly
p_p_l_r b_t h_ s__d th_r_ s__ms t_ b_ n_ _th_r
_lt_rn_t_v_.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1604/160417-czechia.html>

the czech republic is planning to adopt a snappy short-form name to ensure it has an easier time at home and around the world it wants to be officially known by the noun 'czechia' instead of incorrectly by the adjective 'czech' government officials say this more concise name will avoid confusion over what to call the country they are tired of being called by erroneous names such as czecho or czechland a foreign office spokesperson said "our hope is that this step will overcome the problems we face with distorting the name and that the correct terms will dissolve into general knowledge" the government will seek a formal change in the united nations database of country names

the czech republic government said it is following the example of what many countries around the world have done for decades a spokesman said the commonwealth of australia and the republic of france are commonly known as australia and france the length of the three-word name 'the czech republic' already leads to short cuts being made a leading beer maker states on its labels that its product is 'brewed in plzen - czech' some national sports teams drop the article 'the' and put just two words on their shirts - 'czech republic' foreign minister lubomir zaoralek said the name 'czechia' is not widely popular but he said there seems to be no other alternative

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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The Czech Republic is planning to adopt a snappy short-form name to ensure it has an easy time at home and around the world. It wants to be officially known by the noun 'Czechia' instead of incorrectly by the adjective 'Czech'. Government officials say this more concise name will avoid confusion over what to call the country. They are tired of being called by erroneous names such as Czechoor Czechland. A foreign office spokesperson said: "Our hope is that this step will overcome the problems we face with distorting the name and that the correct terms will dissolve into general knowledge." The government will seek a formal change in the United Nations database of country names. The Czech Republic government said it is following the example of what many countries around the world have done for decades. A spokesman said the Commonwealth of Australia and the Republic of France are commonly known as Australia and France. The length of the three-word name, 'the Czech Republic,' already leads to shortcuts being made. A leading beer maker states on its label that its product is 'brewed in Pilsen-Czech'. Some national sport teams drop the article 'the' and put just two words on their shirts - 'Czech Republic'. Foreign minister Lubomir Zaoralek said the name 'Czechia' is not widely popular but he said it here seems to be no other alternative.

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 country names. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. COUNTRY NAMES: Make a poster about your country's name. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. CZECHIA: Write a magazine article about the new name Czechia. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

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 country names. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your thoughts on the new name of Czechia. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

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

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. adopt | a. take on |
| 2. ensure | b. see to it |
| 3. confusion | c. uncertainty |
| 4. overcome | d. get over |
| 5. formal | e. official |
| 6. spokesman | f. representative |
| 7. leading | g. top |
| 8. drop | h. omit |
| 9. popular | i. in favour |
| 10. alternative | j. replacement |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. At home and around the world
2. Confusion
3. Erroneous names
4. General knowledge
5. The United Nations
6. Australia and France
7. The name 'the Czech Republic'
8. On the label of its products
9. The article 'the'
10. It wasn't widely popular

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

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

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

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