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**Level 4 – 15th September 2025**

## **South Africa rules husband can take wife's name**

**FREE online quizzes, mp3 listening and more for this lesson here:**

<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name-4.html>

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**Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name-4.html>

A court in South Africa has said a man can take his wife's surname or have a double-barrelled name. The country's Births and Deaths Registration Act had required a husband to apply to the government to take his wife's name. Even then, there was no guarantee it would happen. A request was denied in many cases. The new rule says stopping a man from taking his spouse's family name was gender discrimination. It says a man has the right to take the last name of his wife.

There was mixed reaction on social media. Many people said it was a sign of greater equality. They pointed out that the previous law was passed in colonial times. They also say the law continues South Africa's progressiveness. The country was the first in Africa to legalize same-sex marriage. However, other people said the new rule goes against the country's traditions. One person 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>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. have a double-              | a. name of his wife  |
| 2. required a husband to apply | b. it would happen   |
| 3. there was no guarantee      | c. to the government |
| 4. A request was denied        | d. right to          |
| 5. taking his spouse's         | e. barrelled name    |
| 6. gender                      | f. family name       |
| 7. It says a man has the       | g. discrimination    |
| 8. take the last               | h. in many cases     |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                  |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. There was mixed               | a. sex marriage         |
| 2. a sign of greater             | b. in colonial times    |
| 3. the previous law was passed   | c. citizens             |
| 4. The country was the           | d. country's traditions |
| 5. legalize same-                | e. reaction             |
| 6. the new rule goes against the | f. and values           |
| 7. it would destroy the norms    | g. equality             |
| 8. indigenous                    | h. first in Africa      |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name-4.html>

A court in South Africa has said a man (1) \_\_\_\_\_ wife's surname or have a double-barrelled name. The country's Births and Deaths Registration Act had (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to apply to the government to take his wife's name. Even then, there was (3) \_\_\_\_\_ would happen. A request was denied (4) \_\_\_\_\_. The new (5) \_\_\_\_\_ a man from taking his spouse's family name was gender discrimination. It says a man has (6) \_\_\_\_\_ take the last name of his wife.

There was mixed (7) \_\_\_\_\_ media. Many people said it was a sign of greater equality. They (8) \_\_\_\_\_ the previous law was passed (9) \_\_\_\_\_. They also say the law continues South Africa's progressiveness. The country was the first in Africa (10) \_\_\_\_\_-sex marriage. However, other people said the new rule (11) \_\_\_\_\_ country's traditions. One person said it would "destroy the (12) \_\_\_\_\_" of indigenous citizens.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name-4.html>

A court in South Africa has said a man can take his wife's surname or have a double-barrelled name. The country's Births and Deaths Registration Act had required a husband to apply to the government to take his wife's name. Even then, there was no guarantee it would happen. A request was denied in many cases. The new rule says stopping a man from taking his spouse's family name was gender discrimination. It says a man has the right to take the last name of his wife. There was mixed reaction on social media. Many people said it was a sign of greater equality. They pointed out that the previous law was passed in colonial times. They also say the law continues South Africa's progressiveness. The country was the first in Africa to legalize same-sex marriage. However, other people said the new rule goes against the country's traditions. One person said it would "destroy the norms and values" of indigenous citizens.

# SURNAMES SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name-4.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.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

- a) \_\_\_\_\_
- b) \_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_
- d) \_\_\_\_\_
- e) \_\_\_\_\_
- f) \_\_\_\_\_

## WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name-4.html>

Write about **surnames** for 10 minutes. Read and talk about your partner's paper.

[illegible]