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Level 5 – 15th September 2025

South Africa rules husband can take wife's name

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name-5.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.

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THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name-5.html>

A court in South Africa has ruled that a man can take his wife's surname or have a double-barrelled name. Before this ruling, the country's Births and Deaths Registration Act had required that a husband needed to apply to the government to take his wife's name or to hyphenate it. However, even then, there was no guarantee it would be granted. The request was denied in many cases. The new rule says prohibiting a man from adopting his spouse's family name was gender discrimination. It says a man has the right to assume the last name of a woman he marries.

The court's decision was met with mixed reaction on social media. Many people said it was progressive and a sign the country was providing greater equality. They pointed out that the previous law was passed in the colonial 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, other people criticized the new ruling. They say it goes against 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>

PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name-5.html>

PARAGRAPH ONE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. A court in South Africa has | a. would be granted |
| 2. have a double- | b. he marries |
| 3. Before this | c. discrimination |
| 4. to take his wife's name or | d. ruled that |
| 5. there was no guarantee it | e. to hyphenate it |
| 6. adopting his spouse's | f. barrelled name |
| 7. gender | g. family name |
| 8. the last name of a woman | h. ruling |

PARAGRAPH TWO:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. The court's decision was met | a. country's traditions |
| 2. the country was providing greater | b. values |
| 3. passed in the colonial | c. paternalistic |
| 4. overly | d. citizens |
| 5. other people criticized the new | e. equality |
| 6. They say it goes against the | f. with mixed reaction |
| 7. the norms and | g. era |
| 8. indigenous | h. ruling |

LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name-5.html>

A court in South Africa has ruled that a man can take his wife's surname or have (1) _____ name. Before to this ruling, the country's Births and Deaths Registration Act (2) _____ a husband needed to apply to the government to take his wife's name or (3) _____. However, even then, there was no guarantee it would be granted. The request was (4) _____ cases. The new rule says prohibiting a man from (5) _____ family name was gender discrimination. It says a man has the (6) _____ the last name of a woman he marries.

The court's decision was met with (7) _____ social media. Many people said (8) _____ and a sign the country was (9) _____. They pointed out that the previous law was passed in (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, other people (11) _____ ruling. They say it goes against the country's traditions. One user on X said it would "destroy the (12) _____" of indigenous citizens.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2509/250915-married-name-5.html>

A court in South Africa has ruled that a man can take his wife's surname or have a double-barrelled name. Before this ruling, the country's Birth and Deaths Registration Act had required that a husband needed to apply to the government to take his wife's name or to hyphenate it. However, even then, there was no guarantee it would be granted. The request was denied in many cases. The new rule says prohibiting a man from adopting his spouse's family name was gender discrimination. It says a man has the right to assume the last name of a woman he marries. The court's decision was met with mixed reaction on social media. Many people said it was progressive and as the country was providing greater equality. They pointed out that the previous law was passed in the colonial era and was overtly paternalistic. 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 criticized the new ruling. They say it goes against the country's traditions. One user on X 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-5.html>

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

[illegible]