

4/12/26

First Name, Last Name

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes

Number of players: Unlimited

Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers

Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

One person's last name can often be another person's first name – such as *Clarence Thomas/Thomas Jefferson*, or *Jesse James/James Cagney*. Given a clue for each of two famous people, can you figure out the name they share? **NOTE: It is possible that the shared name may be spelled slightly differently as a first and last name, but it will always be pronounced exactly the same. For example: *Woody Allen* and *Alan Alda* is an acceptable answer.**

Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or in teams.
2. Read the first clues aloud. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year's blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.
3. After a player/team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give an answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may "buzz" in and answer.
4. Scoring: Give 10 points for each correct answer.

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Instructions: Given a clue for each of two famous people, can you figure out the name they share?

1. He is a Grammy Award-winning singer songwriter whose hits include “Fire and Rain,” “Sweet Baby James,” and “Shower the People” ... she is a singer-songwriter who is currently one of the most influential figures in popular culture with a global fanbase.
2. This civil rights leader ran for president in 1984 and 1988 ... and he is an American abstract painter most active in the 1950s and known for his “drip” technique.
3. He is the fictional business partner of Ebenezer Scrooge ... and she’s a deaf actress who won an Academy Award for her starring role in *Children of a Lesser God* (1986).
4. Actor who started his career on *Saturday Night Live* playing characters such as a grown-up version of Buckwheat from *The Little Rascals* and Mr. Robinson, a black streetwise version of the PBS children’s show host Mr. Rogers ... and she is the fictional TV reporter played by Candace Bergen in the 1990s.
5. He’s the late 19th/early 20th century banker who dominated corporate finance throughout the Gilded age ... and he is the Oscar-winning actor whose movies include *Driving Miss Daisy* (1989) and *The Shawshank Redemption* (1994).
6. She is the current US senator from Massachusetts ... and he is the renowned American investor, philanthropist, and chairman of Berkshire Hathaway still active at age 95.
7. She starred in several romantic comedies in the 1990s including *You’ve Got Mail* (1998) and *Sleepless in Seattle* (1993) ... and he is a ubiquitous TV show host of *American Idol* and, since 2024, *Wheel of Fortune*.
8. Original name of the Princess of Wales, who married Prince Charles and died in a car crash in 1997 ... and he’s one of the major stars of Hollywood’s Golden Age, with films including *Captains Courageous* (1937) and *Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner* (1967).
9. Although he lived most of his life in New York, his signature song was “I Left My Heart in San Francisco” ... and he was the founder of Random House publishing, but was perhaps more widely known as a witty panelist on *What’s My Line?* in the 1950s and 60s.
10. She is a multi-award-winning actress who starred in *The Accused* (1988) and *The Silence of the Lambs* (1991) ... and he was a comic character actor who is perhaps best remembered for playing a stumbling drunk (comedically) on various TV shows during the 1970s.

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ANSWERS

1. James Taylor/Taylor Swift
2. Jesse Jackson/Jackson Pollock
3. Jacob Marley/Marlee Matlin
4. Eddie Murphy/Murphy Brown
5. J.P. Morgan/Morgan Freeman
6. Elizabeth Warren/Warren Buffett
7. Meg Ryan/Ryan Seacrest
8. (Lady) Diana Spencer/Spencer Tracy
9. Tony Bennett/Bennett Cerf
10. Jodie Foster/Foster Brooks