

# NAME THOSE PRESIDENTS!

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I wish that Ross Perot had been elected president of the United States.

That is not a statement of political philosophy but, rather, the fond hope of a logologist, a player with words.

One of the goals of those who love the game of anagrams is to mine a famous person's name and uncover a word or statement that is especially appropriate to that person's character or career. The name **William Shakespeare**, for example yields up **We all make his praise, I swear he's like a lamp, and I ask me: has Will a peer?**

I wish that Ross Perot had become president because he is a man who was born to be an anagram. The name **Ross Perot** surrenders the greatest anagram in the political history of our nation: **sore sport**. Add Perot's first initial, H, and we get the almost-wonderful **short poser** and **posh resort**.

Instead of Perot, we have William Clinton, whose first and last names present a daunting challenge to the anagrammist because they contain three L's, three I's, no E's, and a high density of consonants. We note the tantalizing words **illicit** and **nation** dancing the letters in **William Clinton**, but **Illicit man won** lacks one L from the original name, **I will calm nation** needs an extra A from somewhere, and **Nation will climb** an extra B -- and, alas, Mr. Clinton's middle initial is J, for **Jefferson**. Fortunately, we are able to extract from **William Clinton** the anagrams **No calm till I win** and **Can now limit ill**.

What's in a name? Plenty when you start playing around with the first, middle, and last names of our American presidents. Here's a 42-question quiz in honor of our 42 chief executives, from Washington to Bush, the only two to share their first name, by George, to Clinton, the only president, along with Washington, whose name ends in **-ton**.

1. Name four presidents whose last names consist of just four letters
2. Who is the only twentieth-century president with a last name beginning with a vowel?
3. Who are the only two presidents whose last names begin with the same letter as they end?
4. What five presidents have last names that are also words when uncapitalized?

5. What ten presidents have last names that form two complete words when uncapitalized?
6. Who are the only four presidents whose last names contain oo?
7. What is the longest sequence of presidents who have double letters somewhere in the first or last names?
8. What is the longest sequence of presidents whose last names begin with letters that are in alphabetical (but not touching) order? What is the second-longest string?
9. Who is the only president with a two-syllable last name in which the stress falls on the second syllable?
10. How many presidents have a last name ending in -son?
11. When -son ends a last name, it usually means "son of". What other presidents have patronymic last names?
12. No president has a last name whose letters occur in alphabetical order, although **Fillmore** comes wonderfully close. Who is the only president whose last name is composed of letters in reverse alphabetical order? What is unusual about that sequence?
13. Who are the only three presidents whose last names alternate between consonants and vowels?
14. If we take away the first letter of the word **president**, we get **resident**. This technique is called a beheadment. List the last names of five presidents, each of whose last name can be beheaded to form a new word. Which two can be beheaded a second time?
15. What two sequential presidents have last names that begin with letters the farthest away from each other in the alphabet?
16. What two presidents were succeeded by a man named Johnson?
17. Who is the only president to have a state named after him?
18. What four presidents have had state capitals named after them?
19. Who is the only president to have the capital of a foreign country named after him?
20. Who is the only president whose last name consists entirely of letters that, when capitalized, remain themselves when turned upside down?
21. What two presidents share the same first and last name initials? What second pair of presidents shares first and last name initials that are the reverse of the pair you've just named?
22. Who was the only president with a middle name consisting of a single letter?
23. Who is the first president with a first name that is shared by no other president?
24. What president has a first name that is both the first name of a famous cartoon character and the last name of an important religious leader?
25. Who are the only two presidents to serve sequentially and to have the same first name?
26. What is the most popular presidential first name?
27. Who is the only president to have a first name beginning with a vowel other than A?

28. What president's first name became the name of a popular doll?
29. Who is the only president whose first name begins with the same letter as his last name ends?
30. What four presidents have first and last names that are alliterative (beginning with the same letter)?
31. Who is the only president who has twice as many letters in his first name as in his last?
32. In what president's last name appears the first name of an earlier president?
33. In what president's first name appears the last name of a later president?
34. What two presidents' middle names are the last names of earlier presidents?
35. Note the pattern **Taft: fat** -- a description of the 300-pound 27th president. Complete the same pattern in the following sentence by filling in the last name of a president: **To last, ..... retracts a lot.**
36. Which two presidents share a last name that, read in reverse, becomes a negative response to an inferior?
37. Which president's last name is the complete name of a famous cartoon character?
38. Which two presidents have last names that are also the names of a current car model and car company?
39. Other than having been president, what is Ronald Reagan's connection with Grover Cleveland?
40. Who is the first president to be popularly called by his initials?
41. Gerald Ford and George Bush are the only presidents with exactly ten letters in their first and last names. Name four presidents whose first and last names total just nine letters.
42. Identify the presidential names that generate these anagrams:
  - a) Loved horse, tree too
  - b) A word with all: I'm fat
  - c) Eleanor kin, last fond lover
  - d) War on: he gets going
  - e) He invaded wiser, with God
  - f) Zing! Joy darken, then fled
  - g) Hush, nix -- criminal odor
  - h) Old age ran, ran ...
  - i) He bugs Gore

Some presidents started out life under a different name. Ulysses S. Grant was born Hiram Ulysses Grant. When his name was mistakenly entered on the West Point register as Ulysses S. Grant, he eagerly embraced the error because he detested the initials H.U.G. and loved having the initials U.S. (Uncle Sam, United States). Woodrow Wilson was born Thomas Woodrow Wilson, Calvin Coolidge John Calvin Coolidge, and Dwight David Eisenhower David Dwight Eisenhower. Gerald Rudolph Ford is the adopted name of Leslie Lynch King, and William Clinton the adopted name of William Blyth.

In this quiz, I use the names by which these men were popularly known when they were president. Answers are in Answers and Solutions at the end of the issue.