

## LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT - DICTIONARY ENTRY

Study the following dictionary entry (taken from the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*) and answer the questions that follow.

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**Nama** /ˈnɑ:mə/ ● n. (pl. same or **Namas**) **1** a member of one of the Khoikhoi peoples of South Africa and SW Namibia. **2** the Khoisan language of this people.

– ORIGIN the name in Nama.

**USAGE** Nama

**Nama** is the standard accepted term in this context. The word **Hottentot**, an older term with a somewhat broader meaning, is obsolete and may now cause offence.

**namaskar** /ˌnɑ:mɑsˈkɑ:/ ● n. a traditional Indian gesture of greeting, made by bringing the palms together before the face or chest and bowing.

– ORIGIN via Hindi from Sanskrit *namaskāra*, from *namas* ‘bowing’ + *kāra* ‘action’.

**namaste** /ˌnɑ:məsteɪ/ ● exclam. (in India) a respectful greeting said when giving a namaskar. ● n. another term for **NAMASKAR**.

– ORIGIN via Hindi from Sanskrit *namas* ‘bowing’ + *te* ‘to you’.

**namby-pamby** derogatory ● adj. lacking courage or vigour; feeble. ● n. (pl. **-ies**) a namby-pamby person.

– ORIGIN C18: fanciful formation based on the given name of *Ambrose Philips*, an Engl. writer whose pastorals were ridiculed as insipid.

**name** ● n. **1** a word or set of words by which someone or something is known, addressed, or referred to. **2** a famous person. > a reputation, especially a good one. **3** (in the UK) an insurance underwriter belonging to a Lloyd’s syndicate. ● v. **1** give a name to. > identify or mention by name. > (**name someone/thing after** or N. Amer. also **for**) call someone or something by the same name as. > chiefly Brit. (of the Speaker) mention (an MP) by name as disobedient to the chair and thereby subject to a ban from the House. **2** specify (a sum, time, or place). ● adj. (of a person or product) having a well-known name.

– PHRASES **by (or of) the name of** called. **call someone names** insult someone verbally. **have to one’s name** [often with neg.] in one’s possession. **in all but name** existing in a particular state but not formally recognized as such. **in someone’s name** **1** formally registered as belonging to or reserved for someone. **2** on behalf of someone. **in the name of** for the sake of. **make a name for oneself** become famous. **name the day** arrange the date for a specific occasion, especially a wedding. **name names** mention specific names, especially in accusation. **the name of the game** informal the main purpose or most important aspect of a situation.

– DERIVATIVES **nameable** adj.

– ORIGIN OE *nama*, *noma* (n.), (*ge*)*namian* (v.), of Gmc origin.

a

b

c

- 2.1 Refer to the entry for the word 'Nama'. Identify the parts of the entry labelled a, b and c. (3)
- 2.2 Where does the word 'Nama' come from? (1)
- 2.3 Refer to the entry for the word 'name'. Give the parts of speech the word 'name' may be. (3)
- 2.4 Write down the expression (idiom) one would use to indicate the essence or core aspect of a situation or in doing something. (1)
- 2.5 Consider the etymology (origin) of the word 'name'. Explain why this Old English origin of the word 'name' is considered inappropriate if one had to use it today. (2)

**TOTAL: [10]**