

Nombres y Apellidos (Naming conventions)

In the US most people have three names: First, Middle, and Last. In many Spanish speaking countries it's done a little differently. Your heritage is very important, and the way they do names shows more accurately your family line.

Nombres – First name

Typically, Spanish speakers will have one nombre, and not use a middle name like we do. That said, it may vary from place to place. **However**, remember that in Spanish culture it is very common to have 2 nombres: Ana María, Juan Luis...etc. Often people with dual nombres adopt a nickname, like my favorite; Juanca, short for Juan Carlos.

Apellidos – Last name

In Spanish speaking countries everyone has TWO last names, or apellidos. The first one is your father's family name (what we use as a last name) and the second is your mother's family name (we call that her maiden name – from before she was married).

Ejemplo: Philip Enoch Wood Eggers

(Nombre) (nombre de medio) (apellido paterno)(apellido materno)



Interestingly, Pablo Picasso's real name is Pablo Ruiz (y) Picasso. So Picasso is actually the name of his *mother's* family!

What is your full name? _____

Identify the parts:

Alfonso Gomez Flores

María Soledad Abad Fernandez

Matrimonio – Marriage

In the US the common (but not by any means universal) custom when people get married is for the wife to take the family name of the husband. Sometimes they tack it on with a hyphen and have two names. In Spanish, it's common for the husband's name to not even be used. If she were to mention it, it would simply be added to the end using "de". For anything legal, she will just use her apellido paterno and materno like normal.

Jennifer Lynn Diggelman Ruben de Wood

Review – is Ruben her mother's family name or father's?

Hijos – kids

For whatever reason, this is the place that English speakers have the most trouble. To find out the children's names, you simply use the apellido paterno from both parents. This means that the kids will have different last names than their parents!

Roberto Torres Borges and Lilia Flores Alma have 2 children:

Marisa Torres Flores

Juan Luis Torres Flores

You try it

Pedro Diaz Barerra and María Soledad Alvaro Cruz (2 nombres) have a daughter:

Esperanza _____