

Trivia Quiz: Apt Names

Celebrate Your Name Week arrives every March, with individual celebrations for each day, such as:



- Namesake Day (Others with your name)
- Fun Facts About Names
- Learn What Your Name Means Day
- Middle Name Pride Day
- Genealogy Day

Since I am fascinated by names, I think any week is a good time to celebrate. One of my favorite books about names is Paul Dickson's *What's in a Name? Reflections of an Irrepressible Name Collector*, which is filled with interesting and funny trivia. One of Paul Dickson's delights is what he calls "apronyms," but are also called "aptonyms," meaning names that are well-suited (apt) to the person's occupation.

Part 1: Can you match the name to the fitting occupation?

Here are names and occupations of real people in Mr. Dickson's collection. Can you make the perfect match for these apronyms (apty named people)?

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. J. H Argue ____ | a. accountant |
| 2. J. Bidwell ____ | b. attorney |
| 3. John Buckmaster ____ | c. auctioneer |
| 4. Bob Bugg ____ | d. barber (nicknamed "Safety") |
| 5. Walter Candy ____ | e. bank manager |
| 6. Bill Dollar ____ | f. collector of overdue accounts |
| 7. Charles Fish ____ | g. contractor |
| 8. Roy Holler ____ | h. dentist |
| 9. Bill Mailer ____ | i. entomologist (studies insects) |
| 10. O.C. Keener ____ | j. flautist |
| 11. C. Sharpe Minor ____ | k. optometrist |
| 12. O.O. Oops ____ | l. organist |
| 13. John Razor ____ | m. professor of marine biology |
| 14. Linda Toote ____ | n. surgeon |
| 15. William Toothaker ____ | o. wholesale confectioner |

Bonus section: Come up with your own aptonyms

Do you know anyone aptly named? Who and in what way?

Can you come up with your own apt names for a:

- Real estate agent _____
- Short order cook _____
- Private detective _____
- Car saleswoman _____
- Astronaut _____
- Dog catcher _____
- Librarian _____
- Landscaper _____

Part 2: Can you match the business to its product or service?

1. Buenas Noches Roaches ____
2. Disguise the Limit ____
3. Embraceable Zoo ____
4. Moby Disks ____
5. Pen Station ____
6. Second Hand Prose ____
7. Shear Genius ____
8. Sufficient Grounds ____
9. The Summer of Our Discount
Tent ____
10. Wok Around the Clock ____

- a. Beauty parlor
- b. Camping equipment
- c. Chinese take-out food
- d. Coffee
- e. Costume rentals
- f. Exterminator
- g. Records/CDs
- h. Toy stuffed animals
- i. Used Books
- j. Writing instruments



Answers, Part 1

- | | | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. b | 3. e | 5. o | 7. m | 9. f | 11. l | 13. d | 15. h |
| 2. g | 4. i | 6. a | 8. c | 10. k | 12. n | 14. j | |

Possible apt names:

- Real estate agent – Nita House
- Short order cook – Stu Belcher
- Private detective – Hiram Ketchum
- Car saleswoman – Portia Driver
- Astronaut – Amy Skyward
- Dog catcher – Chas. K. Nynes
- Librarian – Rita Book
- Landscaper – Lon Moore

Answers, Part 2:

1. f 2. e 3. h 4. g 5. j 6. i 7. a 8. d 9. b 10. c

You can learn more about Celebrate Your name Week at www.namesuniverse.com. Some of the apt name ideas came from: <http://www.joe-ks.com/aptonyms.htm>.