

## Pre-Reading Activities

### A: Vocabulary

**named after, secretly, prize-winning horse, records office, court, register**

1. to do something without someone else knowing
2. to give a person the same name as someone or something else
3. the government office where important information such as a list of the births, deaths and marriages is kept
4. a horse which wins a lot of prizes
5. to put a name on an official list
6. a place where people decide if a person has done something wrong

### B: Pictures

1. Match the words with the things in the pictures:  
**records office, prize-winning horse, driver**



2. Look at the pictures, work in pairs and answer these two questions.
  - a. *What happened secretly?*
  - b. *Who or what do you think the baby was named after?*

## Reading Activities

### A: Sequencing

Look at the **first** sentence of today's article which is on the next page. Put the words into the correct order.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> secretly named their | <input type="checkbox"/> An angry                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> has gone             | <input type="checkbox"/> to court                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> after her husband    | <input type="checkbox"/> newborn son                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Italian mother       | <input type="checkbox"/> after a prize-winning horse. |

Answer the questions below about the **first** sentence of the article.

1. Who was the baby named after?
2. How did the mother feel?
3. Where has the mother gone?
4. Why?

Put the **second** sentence into the correct order.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> in the small southern town | <input type="checkbox"/> was out of hospital, |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the man went to            | <input type="checkbox"/> the records office   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> as Varenne Giampaolo.      | <input type="checkbox"/> of Boscotrecase      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Before his wife            | <input type="checkbox"/> to register his son  |

Answer the questions below about the **second** sentence of the article.

1. Where did the man go?
2. Why?
3. Where was his wife?

## B: Questions

Read the whole article and answer the questions.

1. What is Varenne?
2. Who is Giampaolo?
3. What did the man tell the official at the records office?
4. What name did the mother want to give her son?

### Mother Goes to Court after Father Names Son after Horse

ROME Tuesday August 13 (Reuters) - An angry Italian mother has gone to court after her husband secretly named their newborn son after a prize-winning horse. Before his wife was out of hospital, the man went to the records office in the small southern town of Boscotrecase to register his son as Varenne Giampaolo.

Varenne is a seven-year-old horse thought to be the greatest trotter in history and Giampaolo is his driver's name.

"He said his wife agreed," an official at the records office

told Reuters. Varenne is no ordinary horse. The dark brown trotter is a national hero in Italy where he was awarded athlete of the year in 2001.

But when the mother discovered she couldn't change the baby's name to Christian, she went to court.

"She just wouldn't accept that the name isn't embarrassing or insulting," the official said. The court's ruling is **pending**.

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**Glossary: pending** - waiting to be decided

## C: Reading for Detail

Look at this sentence from today's article and choose the best answer for each question.

The dark brown **trotter** is a **national hero** in Italy where he was **awarded athlete of the year in 2001**.

1. **trotter** in this sentence means...
  - a. the driver of the horse.
  - b. the horse.
  - c. the baby boy.
2. **national hero** in this sentence means...
  - a. someone or something which everyone in a country thinks is very good.
  - b. someone or something which everyone in a city thinks is very good.
  - c. someone or something which everyone in a country dislikes.
3. **awarded** in this sentence means...
  - a. to take something away from someone.
  - b. to give a prize or something special to someone.
  - c. a prize.
4. **athlete of the year in 2001** in this sentence means...
  - a. the best athlete in the year 2001.
  - b. the worst athlete in the year 2001.
  - c. all the athletes in the year 2001.

## D: Discussion

Work in small groups and discuss the questions.

1. What do you think of a baby being named after a prize-winning horse and his driver?
2. Would you want to change the baby's name?
3. Do you think the court will allow the mother to change the baby's name?
4. How do people usually choose a baby's name in your country?
5. Do they often name babies after someone or something?
6. How did your parents choose your name?
7. What are some common / popular names for boys and girls in your country?

## Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

### A: Gap Fill

Below is today's article but there are some gaps. Use the words below and fill in the gaps but don't look back at the complete article until you have finished.

**to register, angry Italian mother, records office, newborn son, a seven-year-old horse, driver's name, the baby's name, her husband**

An **1** \_\_\_\_\_ has gone to court after **2** \_\_\_\_\_ secretly named their **3** \_\_\_\_\_ after a prize-winning horse. Before his wife was out of hospital, the man went to the **4** \_\_\_\_\_ in the small southern town of Boscotrecase **5** \_\_\_\_\_ his son as Varenne Giampaolo.

Varenne is **6** \_\_\_\_\_ thought to be the greatest trotter in history and Giampaolo is his **7** \_\_\_\_\_.

"He said his wife agreed," an official at the records office told Reuters. Varenne is no ordinary horse. The dark brown trotter is a national hero in Italy where he was awarded athlete of the year in 2001.

But when the mother discovered she couldn't change **8** \_\_\_\_\_ to Christian, she went to court. "She just wouldn't accept that the name isn't embarrassing or insulting," the official said.

### B: Word Find

Find these words from today's article in the puzzle.

**secretly, named, horse, register, court, award, hero**

S	A	W	A	R	D	Y	R
P	E	H	E	R	O	E	H
E	F	C	U	D	G	O	D
S	G	M	R	I	W	H	E
R	G	B	S	E	G	W	M
O	U	T	I	M	T	Q	A
H	E	S	Q	J	L	L	N
R	X	T	R	U	O	C	Y

### C: Language

The words 'a', 'an' and 'the' have been removed from this part of the article. Fill the gaps in the sentences with 'a', 'an' or 'the'.

\_\_\_\_\_ angry Italian mother has gone to court after her husband secretly named their newborn son after \_\_\_\_\_ prize-winning horse. Before his wife was out of hospital, \_\_\_\_\_ man went to \_\_\_\_\_ records office in \_\_\_\_\_ small southern town of Boscotrecase to register his son as Varenne Giampaolo.

Varenne is \_\_\_\_\_ seven-year-old horse thought to be \_\_\_\_\_ greatest trotter in history and Giampaolo is his driver's name.

"He said his wife agreed," \_\_\_\_\_ official at \_\_\_\_\_ records office told Reuters. Varenne is no ordinary horse. \_\_\_\_\_ dark brown trotter is \_\_\_\_\_ national hero in Italy where he was awarded athlete of \_\_\_\_\_ year in 2001.



# TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

## Pre-Reading Activities

### A: Vocabulary - Answers

- secretly
- named after
- records office
- prize-winning horse
- register
- court

### B: Pictures - Notes

2. The second part of this activity is a predicting exercise. Prompt your students with questions if necessary, but don't let them know whether their answers are right or wrong.

### B: Pictures - Answers

- records office - picture b; prize winning horse - picture b; driver - picture b
- a. and b. Answers will vary.

## Reading Activities

### A: Sequencing - Notes

With some students you may need to explain what the phrase going 'to court' means i.e. the mother here is very angry about the name her husband gave their newborn son. She has asked a court to decide whether the name can be changed. This explanation will help students answer question 4.

### A: Sequencing - Answers

**First** Sentence

- secretly named their
- An angry
- has gone
- to court
- after her husband
- newborn son
- Italian mother
- after a prize-winning horse.

- a prize winning horse
- angry
- to court
- to try and change the baby's name

**Second** Sentence

- in the small southern town
- was out of hospital,
- the man went to
- the records office
- as Varenne Giampaolo.
- of Boscotrecase
- Before his wife
- to register his son

- to the records office
- to register his son's name
- in hospital

### B: Questions - Notes

(1. Extra information - a trotter is a horse that moves the front leg on one side of its body and the hind leg on its other side at the same time in a slow run. Trotting or harness racing is a popular sport in a number of countries. The horses pull their drivers in a vehicle with two wheels called a sulky.)

### B: Questions - Answers

- a prize-winning horse (a trotter)
- the horse's driver
- 'His wife agreed.'
- Christian

### C: Reading for Detail - Answers

- b, 2. a, 3. b, 4. a

## Post-Reading Activities

### A: Gap Fill - Answers

- angry Italian mother
- her husband
- newborn son
- records office
- to register
- a seven-year-old horse
- driver's name
- the baby's name

### B: Word Find - Answers



### C: Language - Answers

An angry Italian mother has gone to court after her husband secretly named their newborn son after a prize-winning horse. Before his wife was out of hospital, the man went to the records office in the small southern town of Boscotrecase to register his son as Varenne Giampaolo.

Varenne is a seven-year-old horse thought to be the greatest trotter in history and Giampaolo is his driver's name.

"He said his wife agreed," an official at the records office told Reuters. Varenne is no ordinary horse. The dark brown trotter is a national hero in Italy where he was awarded athlete of the year in 2001.