

How to Get Away with Forgetting Someone's Name



SECTION I

What the Hell is this Person's Name?



ZERO RECALL

It's happening again. That person is walking towards you. They're going to engage you in conversation, and you have no idea what their name is.

What do you do? Do you ask his/her name for the kajillionth time? Do you carefully avoid sentences which may require you to use his/her name? Do you try to end the conversation as soon as possible? Do you ignore him/her completely?

This training module will provide you with three strategies to guide you through this awkward situation. Additionally, what you learn here will free you from the stress of ever having to remember a name again.





DURING A SECOND ENCOUNTER

If you've only met the person once before, don't beat yourself up for having a terrible memory. Unless you're one of those Bill Clinton or Joe Biden types, no one expects you to remember his/her name after a single, brief and inconsequential encounter. So, just be honest. You may say the following:

"You know what? I apologize but I'm terrible with names though I never forget a face. Could you please remind me what your name is?"

OR

"I know we've met before, tell me your name again. Oh, yes, Amber! How could I have forgotten that? Forgive me."





AFTER MULTIPLE ENCOUNTERS

If you have run into Mystery Person several times before, you can't get away with asking what his/her name is again—especially if you will continue to see him/her in the future. Mystery Person will think that something is seriously wrong with you.

DO NOT ASK THE PERSON TO TELL YOU HIS/HER NAME AGAIN.





SECTION II

The SPELL-IT-OUT Maneuver



ASK WITHOUT ASKING

If you have encountered someone on multiple occasions, and still have no idea what his/her name is, you'll need to use one or more of a few different strategies to get your forgetful self out of this pesky situation.



A PERFECTLY FRIENDLY GESTURE

The SPELL-IT-OUT Maneuver allows you to surreptitiously learn Mystery Person's name by asking Mystery Person to spell his/her name correctly for you.



First, following a cheery greeting with the Mystery Person, maintain an upbeat tone and say the following:

"You know, we just keep running into each other so often! I think it would be a good idea to exchange numbers."



LEAP INTO ACTION

Next, retrieve your cell phone quickly. (If you don't have a cell phone, click here.) You may need to say something like:

"Let me grab my cell phone and get this done right now. Perhaps we can schedule a lunch for next week. I know a great new Greek spot on Juniper."







WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A CELL PHONE?

There are five year olds who have cell phones. Get one.

In the meantime, pull out your circa 1985 Lisa Frank phone book and <u>continue The SPELL-IT-OUT Maneuver.</u>

WHO DOESN'T LOVE ACCURACY?

Next, say the following (and this is key):

"I always like to make sure I know the correct spelling of all of my contacts' names. Do me a favor. Go ahead and spell out your first and last name for me."





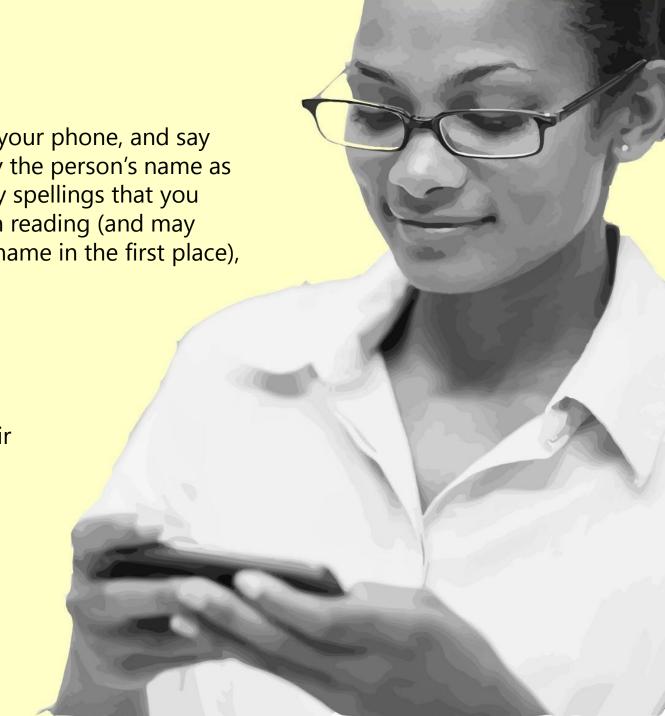
GET THE 411

Next, enter Mystery Person's name and number into your phone, and say thank you. If the name is easy to pronounce, then say the person's name as you say thank you. If the name has one of those crazy spellings that you know you won't be able to pronounce correctly when reading (and may very well be the reason why you forgot the person's name in the first place), say the following:

"Wow, your name has a very interesting spelling. I bet there is a heck of a story behind it."

Typically, because people love themselves so much, Mystery Person will launch into a brief history of their name and end up saying it out loud.





WHEN NOT TO USE THE SPELL-IT-OUT MANEUVER



SECTION III

The **Endearment** Offensive





A SWEET ALTERNATIVE

If you are unable to use **The SPELL-IT-OUT Maneuver** to determine Mystery Person's name, you may need to use **The Endearment Offensive** strategy.

The Endearment Offensive strategy involves you referring to Mystery Person with various terms of endearment such as "Darling," "Honey," "Sweetheart" and so on.



PRACTICE REGIONAL CULTURAL AWARENESS

The Endearment Offensive strategy does have certain usage limitations which are based on regional cultural differences throughout the United States.

In the Midwest and the South, it is not considered sexist or demeaning to refer to a fellow professional as "Dear," "Honey" or "Sweetie." In Louisiana, for instance, "Baby" is a standard moniker.



However, in states like New York and California, such names are considered offensive. For these regions, use "Sir" or "Mr. Man" for men. Use "Ms. Lady" for women.

NOTE: Many women do NOT like to be called "Ma'am."



SECTION IV

The Nickname Game



HIS PARENTS SHOULD'VE NAMED HIM SOMETHING ELSE

Our third and final strategy is **The Nickname Game**. This strategy requires a bit more creativity than the previous two strategies, as well as an analysis of Mystery Person's habits, personality and personal preferences.



It seems that if you are paying this much attention to a person, then you should be able to remember that person's name.

However, many names have an elusive quality. Maybe Mystery Person's name is foreign, or it doesn't quite match the person's face. For example, actor Corey Feldman doesn't really look like a "Corey," and Charlie Sheen will never look like a "Carlos Estevez."



BEHAVIOR-BASED NICKNAMES

When in the company of Mystery Person, pay attention to their physical habits and gestures.

If Mystery Person always works out at 3pm each day, refer to her as "JF" for Jane Fonda or "JM" for Jillian Michaels.

If Mystery Person always angrily tosses his ink pen during meetings, refer to him as "Penn."

If Mystery Person is prone to getting blotto drunk on singles' cruises and/or making out with the general manager during company Christmas parties, refer to that person as "Hot Stuff."







CONVERSATION-BASED NICKNAMES

When in the company of Mystery Person, pay attention to his/her conversational habits.

If Mystery Person has an accent reminiscent of Tony Soprano, refer to him as "Jersey."



If Mystery Person always says the word "fantastic" while describing what he did over the weekend, refer to him as "Fantastic."

If Mystery Person always complains about someone stealing her coffee cup, refer to her as "Mug."



PREFERENCE-BASED NICKNAMES

When in the company of Mystery Person, pay attention to his/her likes and dislikes.

If Mystery Person takes her coffee without cream, sugar or milk, refer to her as "No Chaser."

If Mystery Person always talks about sticking to the Atkin's Diet, refer to him as "Carnivore."

If Mystery Person has an obsession with watching Project Runway because of Tim Gunn, refer to that person as "Gunner."





NICKNAME WITH CAUTION

What's most important about employing **The Nickname Game** strategy is to be clever, AND prepare an agreeable explanation whenever Mystery Person asks why you call him/her that. A couple of examples are:

"I always give cool nicknames to people I like most."

OR

"You know how military folks always give each other nicknames? Well, I consider you a brother/sister-in-arms."

NEVER TELL MYSTERY PERSON THAT YOU'VE NICKNAMED HIM/HER BECAUSE YOU CAN'T REMEMBER HIS/HER ACTUAL NAME.





SECTION V

Conclusion & Post-Assessment



GO FORTH & FORGET

You have learned three strategies for successfully getting away with forgetting someone's name.

- The SPELL-IT-OUT Maneuver
- The Endearment Offensive
- The Nickname Game

You may use one or all of these strategies to avoid actually having to ask a person his/her name after having encountered him/her on multiple occasions.

You may also use these strategies to inspire your own unique methods for getting away with forgetting someone's name.





Determine whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE. Click the correct answer to continue.

You should feel guilty for having to ask a person his/her name during a second encounter.

TRUE FALSE

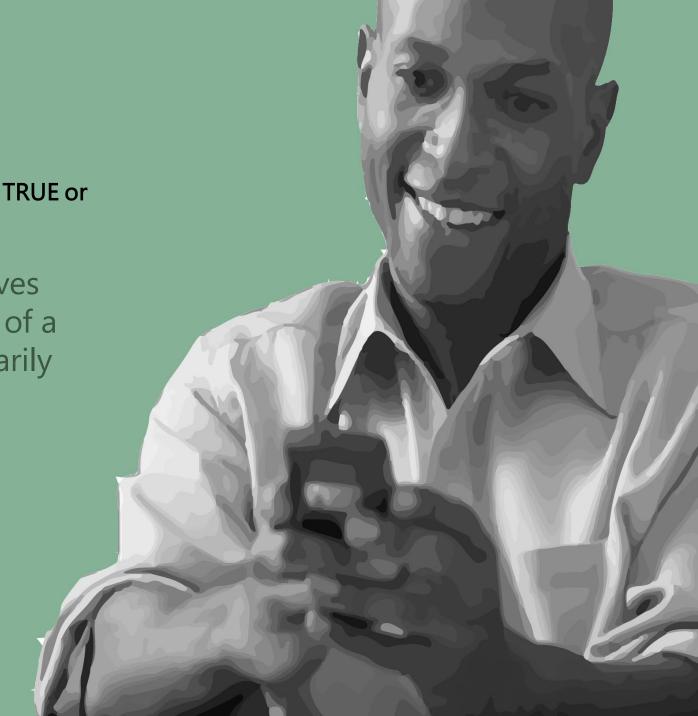


Determine whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE. Click the correct answer to continue.

The SPELL-IT-OUT Maneuver involves using a cell phone to be reminded of a person's name, but doesn't necessarily require the use of a cell phone.

TRUE

FALSE





Determine whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE. Click the correct answer to continue.

The Endearment Offensive is a strategy that involves offending someone so badly that he/she never speaks to you again.

TRUE

FALSE

Determine whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE. Click the correct answer to continue.

It's important to take account of regional cultural practices when employing **The Endearment Offensive** strategy.

TRUE FALSE

Determine whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE. Click the correct answer to continue.

The Nickname Game strategy requires absolutely no sense of creativity.



TRUE

FALSE

Determine whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE. Click the correct answer to continue.

It's okay to tell someone that you have given him/her a nickname because you have forgotten his/her name.

TRUE FALSE





CONGRATULATIONS

You have successfully completed the How to Get Away with Forgetting Someone's Name learning module.

Have a great day, Champ!