What's your name? This question may seem easy, but sometimes it isn't. Many people new to America get confused about American names. Most Americans have three names: a first name, a middle name, and a family name. Most often, people use first names when talking to someone. Bill, Tim, Anna, and Sally are all first names. Some people use a nickname instead of their first name. For example, people might call Matthew, "Matt." Many people have middle names. Jack Michael Miller's middle name is Michael. The family name, or surname, comes last; this name is also called a last name. Americans have many different last names. Last names you might hear often in America are Smith, Johnson, and Jones.

Americans often put last names in alphabetical order. Sometimes you will see a name printed with the last name first. Robert Smith's name will appear in the telephone book as, "Smith, Robert." When the last name comes first, a comma goes between the last name and the first name.

What if someone asks you to write your full name? Write your first, middle, and last name. Amy Marie Johnson is a full name.
Answer the Questions

Identifying the main idea
1. What is the main idea of this story?
   a. In America, people often put things in alphabetical order.
   b. Most Americans have a first, middle, and last name.
   c. Some people use a nickname instead of their first name.

Recalling a fact
2. When a name is printed with the last name first, what goes between the last and first name?
   a. a comma
   b. a middle name
   c. a surname

Getting meaning from context
3. What does hear mean in this story?
   a. to be told by others
   b. in this place
   c. to receive sound with the ears

Making connections within the text
4. If you need to find John Richard Adams' telephone number, which name would you look for first in the telephone book?
   a. John
   b. Richard
   c. Adams

Processing information
5. Why do American names confuse some people?

Developing vocabulary
6. Write bold-faced words from the story that mean the same as the bold-faced word or words in each sentence below.
   a. She wants the names on the list to display in alphabetical order.

   b. They were cousins, but their last names were not the same.

   c. On the paper, there was a mark to separate my last and first names.

Applying information
7. Fill in the blanks with bold-faced words from the story.
   Beth looked at the names ______________ on the nametags on the table. Her ______________ name was Elizabeth Marie Edwards. Because they were set out in ______________ ______________, her nametag was after Dan Edwards' name tag. Her ______________ name, Marie, was not on the nametag. She crossed out Elizabeth and wrote her ______________, Beth.

   Number Correct: ________
First Names, Middle Names, Last Names

Learn New Words

alphabetical order
If things are in alphabetical order, they are listed starting with A and ending with Z. The teacher listed the students' names in alphabetical order, putting Amy Abbot's name first on the list and Will Zimmerman's name last.

appear
Appear means to come into sight or to be able to be seen. When it gets dark, the moon and stars appear in the sky.

comma
A comma is a mark used when writing. It shows where to make a short stop in a sentence or where to separate words in a sentence. I put a comma between each item on my grocery list of eggs, milk, and sugar.

confused
Confused means not fully understanding something. I was confused about the rules of the game, so I asked my brother to explain them to me again.

different
Different means not the same. Julie likes to wear her hair in different styles; sometimes she wears it curly, and sometimes she wears it straight.

easy
Easy means not hard to do. I studied all night for the test, so it seemed easy when I took it.

for example
For example are words a person sometimes says just before showing or telling you what something is like. People sometimes get sick when they eat too much sweet food; for example, too much cake and ice cream can cause a stomach ache.

full
Full means whole or complete. I wrote his full address on the envelope and put it in the mail.

hear
Hear means to be aware of sound with your ears. I can hear the birds singing in the trees.

middle
If something is in the middle, it is between two things. She is the middle daughter of the three sisters; she has an older sister and a younger sister.

name
A name is what someone or something is called. The name of the first President of the United States was George Washington.
Learn New Words, Continued

**nickname**
A nickname is a name you use instead of your real name; sometimes a shorter way to say your real name. *Most people call Catherine by her nickname, Cathy.*

**printed**
Printed means written or marked. *The name of his company is printed on the side of his truck.*

**question**
A question is something people ask in order to learn. *He asked the teacher a question about the new lesson.*