

CHAPTER 12

Eponyms

Preview Questions

- Many words have interesting stories about them. Do you know where these words come from?

sandwich

bikini

jumbo



Eponyms are words **that** come from the names of people or places, and they often tell interesting stories too. An example of an eponym is the word *afghan*. An afghan is a small blanket **that** was first made by people in Afghanistan. Today in the U.S., people **who** have afghans often place the colorful blankets over furniture. The English language has tens of thousands of eponyms. Here are some more examples.

Words that come from places

- A *bikini* is a two-piece swimsuit **that** was introduced by a French designer in 1947. Around this time, the United States dropped nuclear bombs on Bikini Island, an event **that** shocked the world. The designer, **whose** creation shocked the fashion world, named his clothing after these events, some believe.
- The word *sandwich* comes from a town **that** is in the south of England. In the 1700s, an important man in the town of Sandwich was John Montagu. One evening, Montagu sat at a table and gambled for 24 hours without stopping, and the only food **that** he ate was meat with bread. That food was given the name *sandwich*.

Words that come from people (or animals)

- The word *jumbo* comes from a very large elephant **that** lived in a London zoo in the 1800s. Its name was Jumbo.
- In Texas in the 1800s, most people branded their cows and kept them on one piece of land. But Samuel Maverick was man **whose** cows didn't have brands. They walked anywhere they wanted. This was dangerous because people could steal the cows. However, Maverick was a person **who** took chances and didn't follow the rules. Today, this is the definition of the word *maverick*.

Reading Comprehension

Match each eponym in Column A with the correct definition in Column B.

A

1. jumbo
2. sandwich
3. maverick
4. bikini

B

- a. someone who doesn't follow rules and takes chances
- b. very big
- c. women's clothing for swimming
- d. a kind of food you can eat with your hands

GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Complete the sentences with ALL the correct answers. Use who, that, Ø, which , or whose.

1. Many people Ø have afghans in their homes.
2. The man who, that was famous for not branding his cows was named Samuel Maverick.
3. The zoo that, which, Ø Jumbo lived in was in London.

GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Complete the sentences with ALL the correct answers. Use who, that, Ø, which , or whose.

4. Designer Louis Reard - the man who, that changed beach fashion forever - said that a two-piece swimsuit was a bikini only if it could be pulled through a wedding ring.

5. The town that, which, Ø the sandwich is named after is in the south of England.

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