

The Czech Republic to be renamed Czechia

17th April, 2016



The Czech Republic is planning to adopt a snappy short-form name to ensure it has an easier time at home and around the world. It wants to be officially

known by the noun 'Czechia' instead of incorrectly by the adjective 'Czech'. Government officials say this more concise name will avoid confusion over what to call the country. They are tired of being called by erroneous names such as Czecho or Czechland. A foreign office spokesperson said: "Our hope is that this step will overcome the problems we face with distorting the name and that the correct terms will dissolve into general knowledge." The government will seek a formal change in the United Nations database of country names.

The Czech Republic government said it is following the example of what many countries around the world have done for decades. A spokesman said the Commonwealth of Australia and the Republic of France are commonly known as Australia and France. The length of the three-word name, 'the Czech Republic,' already leads to short cuts being made. A leading beer maker states on its labels that its product is 'brewed in Plzen - Czech'. Some national sports teams drop the article 'the' and put just two words on their shirts - 'Czech Republic'. Foreign Minister Lubomir Zaoralek said the name 'Czechia' is not widely popular but he said there seems to be no other alternative.

Sources: *CNN.com / dw.com / Prague Monitor.com*

Writing

A country's name should be a valuable brand. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

The Czech Republic / snappy / officially / adjective / government / problems / database / example / decades / length / short cuts / labels / sports teams / shirts / popular

True / False

- The government does not want to be called by the adjective 'Czech'. T / F
- A spokesman said the new name might lead to more confusion. T / F
- The Czech government hopes the new name will be general knowledge. T / F
- The Czech government will ask the U.N. to change its country's name. T / F
- The Czech government is following the lead of other countries. T / F
- A beer maker says its beer is made in 'the Czech Republic' T / F
- Many Czech sports teams have three words on their shirts. T / F
- The new name 'Czechia' is widely popular. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. adopt | a. uncertainty |
| 2. ensure | b. in favour |
| 3. confusion | c. official |
| 4. overcome | d. top |
| 5. formal | e. take on |
| 6. spokesman | f. omit |
| 7. leading | g. get over |
| 8. drop | h. see to it |
| 9. popular | i. replacement |
| 10. alternative | j. representative |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about your country's name?
- What country names do you really like?
- What do you think of the name 'Czechia'?
- How important is it for a country to have a 'snappy' name?
- What country names are confusing?
- What is the difference between England, Great Britain and the United Kingdom?
- Which name is better, USA or United States of America?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

1. ensure it has an
 2. this more concise name
 3. A foreign
 4. general
 5. The government will seek a formal
 6. it is following the
 7. leads to short
 8. drop the article
 9. widely
 10. there seems to be no
- a. office spokesperson
 - b. 'the'
 - c. change
 - d. example
 - e. easier time
 - f. other alternative
 - g. popular
 - h. knowledge
 - i. will avoid confusion
 - j. cuts being made

Discussion – Student B

- a) Could the Czech government have chosen a better name?
- b) How do you feel when you hear your country's name?
- c) What do you know about the history of your country's name?
- d) What country names do you think are most romantic?
- e) Would there be any alternative name to your country?
- f) Why do so many countries include the word 'republic' in their name?
- g) What is the difference between Holland and the Netherlands?
- h) What would you like to ask the Czech foreign minister?

Spelling

1. focilyifa known by the noun 'Czechia'
2. say this more ienoccs name
3. being called by nourerose names
4. gtdsiirnto the name
5. dsiolvse into general knowledge
6. the United Nations baadtase
7. The Czech Republic tnmveogenr
8. done for cededsa
9. ynlomomc known as Australia
10. wbrdee in Plzen
11. not widely loaurpp
12. there seems to be no other evitarealtn

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Japan

You think Japan is the best country name. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their names aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these names (and why): India, Switzerland or Papua New Guinea.

Role B – India

You think India is the best country name. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their names aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these names (and why): Japan, Switzerland or Papua New Guinea.

Role C – Switzerland

You think Switzerland is the best country name. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their names aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these names (and why): India, Japan or Papua New Guinea.

Role D – Papua New Guinea

You think Papua New Guinea is the best country name. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their names aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these names (and why): India, Switzerland or Japan.

Speaking – Countries

Rank these with your partner. Put the best names at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Vanuatu
- Belize
- Papua New Guinea
- Switzerland
- Brazil
- Japan
- India
- Canada

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | T | b | F | c | T | d | T | e | T | f | F | g | F | h | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.