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EPONYMS

Studying the origin of words is always interesting and useful. In everyday speech people use lots of linguistic and stylistic tools. The eponyms seem to be especially of great interest. The word “eponym” is formed from the Greek “eponymos” meaning “giving names”. Eponyms are proper names that have become nouns or adjectives. Eponymous words range widely from astronomical observations to brand names. We’d like to present some interesting and common eponyms in the English language.

Boycott. In the 1870s, Irish farmers faced an agricultural crisis. Anticipating financial ruin, they formed a Land League to campaign against the rent increases and evictions. Captain Charles Boycott was a tax collector, and when he tried to evict tenant farmers for refusing to pay their rent, he was ostracized by the League and community. Boycott's fate was soon well known, and his name became a byword for that particular protest strategy.

Whatman. James Whatman was a paper maker who made revolutionary advances to the craft in England. He is noted as the inventor of wove paper, an innovation used for high quality art and printing. The company he founded later specialized in producing filter papers.

Daltonism. The first scientific paper on the subject of color blindness was published by the English chemist John Dalton in 1798 after the realization of his own color blindness. Because of Dalton's work, the general condition has been called daltonism, although in English this term is now used only for deuteranopia.

Wellingtons. Wellingtons are also known as rubber boots, wellies, top-boots, rainboots, etc. These outdoor boots were extremely popular among British aristocracy in the early 19th century. It was Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, a famous British soldier and statesman, who instructed his shoemaker to make these boots and the boots were then named after him.

Bluetooth. The name "Bluetooth" is the epithet of the tenth-century king Harald Bluetooth who united dissonant Danish tribes into a single kingdom. The idea of this name was proposed in 1997 by Jim Kardach who developed a system that would allow mobile phones to communicate with computers. The implication is that Bluetooth does the same with communications protocols, uniting them into one universal standard.

The scope of eponym is wide. We can easily find its frequent use in all spheres of life. Eponyms give further meanings to the terms and increase readers’ information by providing them reference of the names of famous persons from history.