

### Jewish Names, Meanings, and Origins

**Occupational:** A name that reflects a profession or Jewish communal function

Name	Meaning	Community of Origin
Shumacher	Shoemaker	Ashkenazi
Melamed	Teacher	Multiple communities
Cohen	Priestly descent	Multiple communities
Fornaro	Baker	Italy
Haddad	Smith	Arabic
Kirschner	Furrier	Ashkenazi
Fingerhut	Tailor (literally thimble)	Ashkenazi
Tabib	Physician	Yemen

**Geographic:** A name that refers to a place the family comes from or has a connection to

Name	Meaning	Community of Origin
Mizrahi	From the east	Mizrahi
Deutsch	German	Ashkenazi
Hamburger	From Hamburg, Germany	German
'Ajami	Foreigner	Iran
Rajpurkar	From Rajpurkar, India	India
Yerushalmi	From Jerusalem	Multiple communities
Yazdi	From Yazd, Iran	Iran
Toledano	From Toledo, Spain	Sephardi

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**Characteristic:** A name derived from the way a person looks or behaves

Name	Meaning	Community of Origin
Gross	Big	Ashkenazi
Elbaz	Falcon	North African
Hassan	Beautiful	Arabic
Jaffe	Beautiful	Czech origin (from Hebrew)
Atrash	Deaf	Arabic
Klein	Small	Ashkenazi
Sedaca	Charity	Sephardi/Italian/N. African
Bialik	Light (hair or skin color)	Ashkenazi

**Patronymic:** A name that comes from the first name of a male ancestor

Prefixes like ben- and suffixes like -zadeh, -man, -ovich, -pour, and -ov mean "son of."

Name	Meaning	Community of Origin
Akhamzadeh	Born of (H)akham, son of a rabbi	Iran
Abramovich	Son of Abraham	Eastern Ashkenazi
Danialpour	Son of Daniel	Iran
Bensimon	Son of Simon	Sephardi, Mizrachi, N. Africa
Nissim	Nissim (miracles)	Sephardi, Mizrachi, N. Africa
Binyaminov	Son of Benjamin	Bukhara (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan), Dagestan
Aronashvili	Son of Aaron	Georgia
Mendelssohn	Son of Mendel	Ashkenazi

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**Matronymic:** A name that comes from the first name of a female ancestor; the suffixes –in and –kin can mean “child of” or “husband of.”

Name	Meaning	Community of Origin
Rivkin	Rivka’s (Rebecca) child or husband	Eastern Ashkenazi
Ben-Esther	Esther’s son	Sephardi/Mizrachi
Frumkin	Frumka’s child or husband	Eastern Ashkenazi
Esperanza	A woman’s name (means hope)	Sephardi
Roskies	Roske’s (Rose) child or husband	Ashkenazi
Esterman	Esther’s husband	Ashkenazi
Aziza	A woman’s name	Sephardi/Mizrachi
Mirkin	Mirka’s (Miriam) child or husband	Eastern Ashkenazi

**Ornamental:** A name that doesn’t fit into the other categories but was selected because it sounded pretty; often combined 2 words; a common category for Ashkenazi Jews

Name	Meaning	Community of Origin
Rosenberg	Rose hill	Ashkenazi
Eisenfeld	Iron field	Ashkenazi
Rothblum	Red flower	Ashkenazi
Rubinstein	Ruby stone	Ashkenazi
Weiss	White	Ashkenazi
Stern	Star	Ashkenazi
Wald	Forest	Ashkenazi
Zilber	Silver	Ashkenazi