Who’s who of words

Words that come from the name of a real, or fictional, person are called eponyms. For example, to boycott, or refuse to use, buy, or have anything to do with something is from the name of Captain Boycott who was an Irish landlord whose tenants refused to deal with him.

GETTING STARTED

Use your Oxford dictionary to put the eponyms into their correct positions in the crossword grid. Use the clues below to help you.

**ACROSS**

2. A person who belongs to a group but often disagrees with its beliefs, named after an American rancher.

4. A poisonous oily liquid found in tobacco, taken from the name of a French diplomat who introduced tobacco into France.

6. A person who is mean with money, named after a character in a Dickens' novel.

7. A garden plant with large brightly coloured flowers, named after a Swedish botanist.

8. A close fitting piece of clothing covering the body to the top of the thighs worn for dance exercise and gymnastics, named after a French circus performer.


11. A food consisting of two or more pieces of bread with a filling, named after a seventeenth century earl.

**DOWN**

1. Rubber or plastic waterproof boots, named after a famous duke.

3. A man's soft felt hat with a narrow brim and a dent in the crown, named after the heroine of a Daphne du Maurier novel.

5. A woollen jumper fastened with buttons at the front, named after a commander in the Crimean War.

7. A traitor who collaborates with an invading enemy, named after a Norwegian leader from the Second World War.

10. A type of ballpoint pen, named after a Hungarian.

How many did you get right?

2 = Novice

5 = Expert

10 = Maestro

You can use your Oxford English Dictionary for Schools and your Oxford Student’s Dictionary for these activities.