

Emma  
 Madison  
 Hannah  
 Samantha  
 Isabella  
 Ava  
 Sophia  
 Emily  
 Olivia  
 Jessica  
 Kaitlyn  
 Margarita  
 Lisa  
 Ashley  
 Anna  
 Marie  
 Jazmi  
 Marielle

## PARENTING BATTLE ONE:

## the name debate

You want to call the baby Vincent; he likes Zak. How to fight fair—and win!

BY HALLIE GOODMAN

The little one's arrival is still months away, but you and your partner are already at each other's throats over choosing a name for the baby. So what can you do when your partner hates the name you love? Here are a few tips to ensure you (okay, both of you) get your way.

### pick your battles

How important is it, really? "With all of the names out there, do you like this one enough to risk placing a lasting strain on your marriage?" asks Jeff Palitz, a couples and family therapist in San Diego. "If the name is truly outrageous and your partner is dead set against it, you might want to compromise," he says.

### create a win-win situation

"There are always occasions where one party wins, but too many of them can start creating resentment within a relationship," explains Palitz. "You don't want to be arguing 10 years from now and then have your partner suddenly blurt out, 'But you named our child Apple!'"

### work together

If your partner consistently vetoes all your choices, ask them to supply a reasonable

alternative. Maybe the problem is that they're feeling left out of the process. "Have the two of you ever sat down on the couch with a baby names book and flipped through it together?" asks Palitz. If the answer is no, it's time to start. By brainstorming side-by-side, you'll be less likely to form separate camps and more likely to stumble upon the perfect name for your baby that the both of you love...together.

### be prepared to give up something big

What bargaining points can you pull out? In order to get, you sometimes need to give...and, in this case, it better be something that your partner really wants. "This isn't deciding what to have for dinner; it's an important and long-term choice," explains Palitz. So if that means getting that big-screen TV (you know, the one that completely dwarfs the living room?), then, by all means, hightail it to a nearby electronics store and pick one up. Not ready to go that far? Then you'll both have to keep looking!

### still stuck?

Look for some more name inspiration at [thebump.com/ideas](http://thebump.com/ideas)