

1. MEANING SOUND AND LOOKS - A) MEANING: THE SEMANTIC ASPECT

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- As long as a name is what it means, both its sound and its looks (spelling) are only relevant as far as they support the meaning.
- The name 'Nederland' is what it means to our neighbours: 'Low country'. So they translate it for instance into 'Pays-Bas' (French) or Netherlands (English) or Niederlande (German), even though that does neither sound nor look like 'Nederland'.
- To Romans and Italians, however, the names Qart Hadasht and Neapolis had never been what they meant ('new towns'). So they became what they sounded: Carthago (to the Roman ear) and Napoli.

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