

Who is Your Cousin?

Do terms like “third cousin, twice removed” sound like another language? It’s not as complicated as it seems, once you understand the terms.

- ✓ First cousins are people who have two of the **same grandparents** as you do. They are children of your aunts and uncles.
- ✓ Second cousins have the same **great-grandparents** as you, and it goes on from there.
- ✓ “Removed” means that two people are from **different generations**. “Once removed” means there is a one-generation difference, “twice removed” means there is a two-generation difference.
- ✓ For example, your mom’s first cousin is your first cousin, once removed because you are one generation younger.

This handy chart can help you find cousin relationships easily! To use it, follow these steps:

1. Pick two people in your family and figure out which ancestor they have in common (grandparent, great-grandparent, etc.).
2. Look at the top row of the chart & find the relationship of the first person to the common ancestor.
3. Now look at the left column & find the relationship of the second person to the common ancestor.
4. Drag your finger to where the row and column meet. That is the relationship between the person on the top row to the person in the left column.

COMMON ANCESTOR	CHILD	GRANDCHILD	G-GRANDCHILD	G-G-GRANDCHILD
CHILD	sister or brother	nephew or niece	great-nephew or niece	great-great-nephew or niece
GRANDCHILD	aunt or uncle	first cousin	first cousin, once removed	first cousin, twice removed
G-GRANDCHILD	great-aunt or uncle	first cousin, once removed	second cousin	second cousin, once removed
G-G-GRANDCHILD	great-great-aunt or uncle	first cousin, twice removed	second cousin, once removed	third cousin