

# Baron

**Baron** is a [title](#) of [honour](#) in many [European peerage](#) systems. It is often a [hereditary](#) title that ranks as the one of the lower titles in a peerage. In the [UK](#) peerage system, the five peerage titles from highest to lowest are [duke](#), [marquess](#), [earl](#), [viscount](#) and baron.<sup>[1]</sup> [Baronets](#) and [knights](#) are not members of the peerage although a baron may also be a knight. In the [feudalism](#) of [medieval England](#) a baron was a [tenant-in-chief](#) who held his lands directly from the [king](#).<sup>[2]</sup> During the [13th century](#) barons were summoned by [royal writ](#) to attend [Parliament](#).<sup>[3]</sup>

The word baron comes from [Old French](#) *baron*, itself from [Frankish](#) *baro* meaning "freeman, [warrior](#)". It later merged with [Old English](#) *beorn* meaning "nobleman." The lands of a baron are called a barony. The female title for a baron is **baroness**. The form of address for a baron is "Lord" and for a baroness "Lady".<sup>[4]</sup>

[List of English and Irish Barons](#)

## References

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1. ↑ "[Ranks and Privileges of the Peerage](#)". Debrett's. Archived from [the original](#) on 12 June 2014. Retrieved 12 January 2016.
2. ↑ "[Feudal Terms](#)". University of Mississippi. Retrieved 12 January 2016.
3. ↑ "[Baron](#)". Debrett's. Retrieved 12 January 2016.
4. ↑ *Titles and Forms of Address: A Guide to Correct Use* (London: A. & C. Black, 2007), p. 45

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