

born¹

S1 W2

verb

1 be born

when a person or animal is born, they come out of their mother's body or out of an egg:

Forty lambs were born this spring.

be born in

Swift was born in 1667.

be born at

Then, most babies were born at home.

be born on

I was born on December 15th, 1973.

be born into/to/of something (= be born in a particular situation, type of family etc)

One third of all children are born into single-parent families.

be born with something (= have a particular disease, type of character etc since birth)

Jenny was born with a small hole in her heart.

*I was **born and raised** (= was born and grew up) in Alabama.*

be born blind/deaf etc (= be blind, deaf etc when born)

*a **newly-born** baby*

*the queen's **firstborn** son*

be born lucky/unlucky etc (= always be lucky, unlucky etc)

Australian/French etc born (= born in or as a citizen of Australia etc)

⚠ Do not say 'I born', 'I have been born', or 'I am born'. Say **I was born**: *I was born in Pakistan.*

2 start existing be born

START TO HAPPEN, EXIST ETC

something that is born starts to exist:

the country where the sport of cricket was born

be born (out) of (= as a result of a particular situation)

The alliance was born of necessity in 1941.

Bill spoke with a cynicism born of bitter experience.

3 **born and bred** COME FROM/ORIGINATE

born and having grown up in a particular place and having the typical qualities of someone from that place:

I was born and bred in Liverpool.

4 **be born to do/be something** SUITABLE

to be very suitable for a particular job, activity etc:

He was born to be a politician.

5 **I wasn't born yesterday** (spoken) BELIEVE

used to tell someone you think is lying to you that you are not stupid enough to believe them

6 **there's one born every minute** (spoken) STUPID/NOT INTELLIGENT

used to say that someone has been very stupid or easily deceived

7 **be born under a lucky/unlucky star** LUCKY

to always have good or bad luck in your life

8 **be born with a silver spoon in your mouth** RICH

to be born into a rich family

→ [NATURAL-BORN](#)

born²

adjective

[only before noun]

1 **born leader/musician/teacher etc**

someone who has a strong natural ability to lead, play music etc:

the skill of a born actor

2 **born loser**

someone who always seems to have bad things happen to them

3 **in all your born days** (old-fashioned)

used to express surprise or annoyance at something that you have never heard about before

