

birth

S2 W2

/bɜːθ \$ bɜːr θ /

noun

1 give birth (to somebody)

if a woman gives birth, she produces a baby from her body:

Patsy was celebrating last night after giving birth to twins.

2 [uncountable and countable] the time when a baby comes out of its mother's body:

Congratulations on the birth of your daughter!

*He only weighed 2 kilos **at birth**.*

*Henry has been blind **from birth**.*

*What's your **date of birth**?*

*The exact **place of birth** is not recorded.*

*They believe that the position of the planets at the **time of birth** determines the fate of the individual.*

*More and more women are choosing to have **home births**.*

*Smoking in pregnancy has been linked to **premature birth**.*

*the association between **birth weight** and blood pressure*

*The drug was found to cause serious **birth defects**.*

3 [singular] BEGINNING the time when something new starts to exist:

birth of

the birth of a nation

*The film **gave birth to** a TV show of the same name.*

4 [uncountable] COME FROM/ORIGINATE the character, language, social position etc that you have because of the family or country you come from:

a woman of noble birth

French/German etc by birth

COLLOCATIONS – Meaning 2 phrases

somebody's date of birth (*especially BrE*), somebody's birth date (*especially AmE*) (= the day, month and year you were born) *Please give your name, address, and date of birth.*

somebody's place/country of birth *I wanted to find out my father's place of birth.*

birth + NOUN

birth weight (= a baby's weight when it is born) *Many factors may affect a baby's birth weight.*

a birth certificate (= an official document showing when and where you were born)

the birth rate (= the number of babies born somewhere) *The country's birth rate has decreased dramatically.*

a birth defect (= something wrong with a baby when it is born) *About 11% of babies have birth defects.*

ADJECTIVES/NOUN + birth

a premature birth (= when a baby is born before the normal time) *Many babies survive premature births.*

a multiple birth (= when a woman has two or more babies at the same time) *The chance of a multiple birth is about 1 in 100 for the average woman.*

a home birth (= when a woman gives birth at home, not in a hospital) *I decided I wanted a home birth for my second child.*

Word origin

Date: 1200–1300

Language: Old Norse

Origin: *byrth*

