

ba-by¹

S1 W1

/ˈbeɪbi/

noun [countable]

(**plural babies**)

- 1 **young child** CHILDBABY/HAVE A BABY a very young child who has not yet learned to speak or walk:

The baby is crying.

She gave birth to a baby on Thursday.

What do you think of your new baby sister?

→ TEST-TUBE BABY

- 2 **young animal** ANIMAL/PLANT a very young animal:

baby birds

- 3 **vegetable** a type of vegetable which is grown to be much smaller than usual or is eaten before it has grown to its normal size:

baby carrots

baby sweetcorn

- 4 **youngest** BROTHER/SISTERCHILD a younger child in a family, often the youngest:

Clare is the baby of the family.

- 5 **woman** (spoken)

a) TALK TO SOMEBODYLOVE

used to address someone that you love:

Relax, baby – we're on holiday.

b) TALK TO SOMEBODYWOMAN (not polite)

used to address a young woman that you do not know

- 6 **silly person** SILLYSTUPID/NOT SENSIBLE someone, especially an older child, who is not behaving in a brave way:

Don't be a baby!

7 responsibility THING something special that someone has developed or is responsible for:

Don't ask me about the building contract – that's Robert's baby.

8 thing (informal) something, especially a piece of equipment or a machine, that you care about a lot:

This baby can reach speeds of 130 miles per hour.

→ **throw the baby out with the bathwater** AT THROW¹ (37)

COLLOCATIONSense 1 verbs

a baby is born *Let me know as soon as the baby is born.*

have a baby/give birth to a baby *She had the baby at home.* |

Sue gave birth to a baby boy.

be expecting a baby (= be pregnant) *My wife's expecting a baby.*

a baby is due (= is expected to be born) *When is your baby due?*

lose a baby (= have a baby that dies when it is born too soon) *She was three months pregnant when she lost the baby.*

deliver a baby (= help a woman to give birth to a baby) *Usually your baby will be delivered by a midwife.*

abandon a baby (= leave your baby somewhere because you do not want it) *A disturbing number of babies are abandoned by their mothers.*

feed a baby *If your baby cries, she may want feeding.*

breast-feed a baby *63% of new mothers breast-feed their babies.*

change a baby (= change its nappy) *Could you change the baby for me?*

adjectives

a newborn baby *There's plenty of help and advice for people with newborn babies.*

an unborn baby (= not yet born) *Drinking alcohol is bad for your unborn baby.*

a premature baby (= born before the normal time) *Lesley's baby was three weeks premature.*

an abandoned baby (= left somewhere by a mother who does not want it) *The abandoned baby was found under a hedge.*

an illegitimate baby (= born to an unmarried mother) *The number of illegitimate babies is rising.*

an unwanted baby *Unwanted babies were frequently abandoned in the streets.*

a contented baby *Danielle was a lovely contented baby.*

baby + NOUN

a baby boy/ girl *She's just had a lovely healthy baby girl.*

a baby son/ daughter/ brother/ sister *We'd like a baby brother or sister for Ben.*

baby clothes/ food

COMMON ERRORS

⚠ Do not say 'she is waiting a baby'. Say *she is expecting a baby.*

THESAURUS

baby a very young child who has not yet learned to speak or walk: *I sat next to a woman holding a baby.*

toddler a baby who has learned how to walk: *The playground has a special area for toddlers.*

infant (formal) a baby or a very young child: *The disease is mainly found in infants.*

little one (spoken informal) a baby, or a small child up to the age of about three: *How old is your little one?*

young the babies of an animal or bird: *Kangaroos carry their young in a pouch.*

litter a group of baby animals that are born at the same time to the same mother: *Our cat has just had a litter of six kittens.*

Word origin

Date: 1300–1400

Origin: *babe*

baby²

verb

[transitive]

(**babied**, **babying**, **babies**)

to be too kind to someone and look after them as if they were a baby

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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