

Common first names

This is a list of common first names that are used in English-speaking countries. Some learners of English like to choose an English name to use as their name in class. This list tells you how to pronounce the name.

The names in brackets are common short forms or different forms of the name. These other forms are usually more informal than the long form. For example, a boy might be called 'William' by his teacher but 'Bill' or 'Billy' by his friends.

Male names

Adam /'æd.əm/

Alan /'æl.ən/

Alexander /,æ1.ɪg'zɑ:n.dəʔ/
(**Alex**) /'æ1.ɪks/

Andrew /'æn.druː/ (**Andy**) /'æn.di/

Anthony UK /'æn.tə.ni/ US
'æn.θə.ni/ (**Tony**) /'təʊ.ni/

Benjamin /'ben.dʒə.mɪn/
(**Ben**) /ben/

Charles /tʃɑ:lz/ (**Charlie**) /'tʃɑ:l.li/

Christopher /'krɪs.tə.fəʔ/
(**Chris**) /krɪs/

Daniel /'dæn.jəl/ (**Dan**) /dæn/

Darren /'dær.ən/

David /'deɪ.vɪd/ (**Dave**) /derv/

Edward /'ed.wəd/ (**Ed**) /ed/
(**Ted**) /ted/

Geoffrey /'dʒef.ri/ (**Geoff**) /dʒef/

George /dʒɔ:dʒ/

Harry /'hær.i/

Jack /dʒæk/

James /dʒeɪmz/ (**Jim**) /dʒɪm/

John /dʒɒn/

Jonathan /'dʒɒn.ə.θən/

Joseph /'dʒəʊ.zɪf/ (**Joe**) /dʒəʊ/

Joshua /'dʒɒʃ.ju.ə/ (**Josh**) /dʒɒʃ/

Ian /'iː.ən/

Kevin /'keɪ.vɪn/

Liam /'liː.əm/

Mark /mɑ:k/

Martin /'mɑː.tɪn/

Matthew /'mæθ.juː/ (**Matt**) /mæt/

Michael /'maɪ.kəl/ (**Mike**) /maɪk/

(**Mick**) /mɪk/

Nicholas /'nɪk.ə.ləs/ (**Nick**) /nɪk/

Patrick /'pæt.rɪk/ (**Pat**) /pæt/

(**Paddy**) /'pæd.i/

Paul /pɔ:l/

Peter /'piː.təʔ/ (**Pete**) /pi:t/

Philip /'fɪl.ɪp/ (**Phil**) /fɪl/

Richard /'rɪtʃ.əd/ (**Ricky**) /'rɪk.i/

(**Dick**) /dɪk/ (**Rick**) /rɪk/

Robert /'rɒb.ət/ (**Bob**) /bɒb/

(**Rob**) /rɒb/ (**Bobby**) /'bɒb.i/

Samuel /'sæm.juəl/ (**Sam**) /sæm/

Simon /'saɪ.mən/

Thomas /'tɒm.əs/ (**Tom**) /tɒm/

(**Tommy**) /'tɒm.i/

Timothy /'tɪm.ə.θi/ (**Tim**) /tɪm/

William /'wɪl.jəm/ (**Billy**) /'bɪl.i/

(**Will**) /wɪl/ (**Bill**) /bɪl/

Female names

Alice /'æ1.ɪs/

Alison /'æ1.ɪ.sən/

Amanda /ə'mæn.də/

(**Mandy**) /'mæn.di/

Amy /'eɪ.mi/

Ann/Anne /æn/

Bridget /'brɪdʒ.ɪt/

Carol /'kær.əl/

Caroline /'kær.ə.laɪn/

Catherine/Kathryn /'kæθ.rɪn/

(**Kate**) /keɪt/ (**Katie**) /'keɪ.ti/

(**Cath**) /kæθ/

Charlotte /'ʃɑː.lət/

Chloe /'kləʊ.i/

Christine /'krɪs.tɪn/ (**Chris**) /krɪs/

Clare/Claire /kleə[r]/

Deborah /'deb.ə.rə/

(**Debbie**) /'deb.i/

Diane /daɪ'æn/

Elizabeth /'ɪlɪz.ə.bəθ/

(**Beth**) /beθ/ (**Liz**) /lɪz/

Emily /'em.ɪ.li/

Emma /'em.ə/

Hannah /'hæn.ən/

Helen /'hel.ən/

Jane /dʒeɪn/

Jennifer /'dʒen.ɪ.fəʔ/

(**Jenny**) /'dʒen.i/

Joanne /dʒəʊ'æn/ (**Jo**) /dʒəʊ/

Julie /'dʒuː.li/

Karen /'kær.ən/

Laura /'lɔː.rə/

Linda /'lɪn.də/

Lucy /'luː.si/

Margaret /'mɑː.gə.rət/

(**Maggie**) /'mæg.i/

Mary /'meə.ri/

Rachel /'reɪ.tʃəl/

Rebecca /rɪ'bek.ə/ (**Becky**) /'bek.i/

Ruth /ruːθ/

Sarah /'seə.rə/

Sharon /'ʃær.ən/

Sophie /'səʊ.fi/

Susan /'suː.zən/ (**Sue**) /suː/

Tracy /'treɪ.sɪ/

Valerie /'væl.ə.ri/