

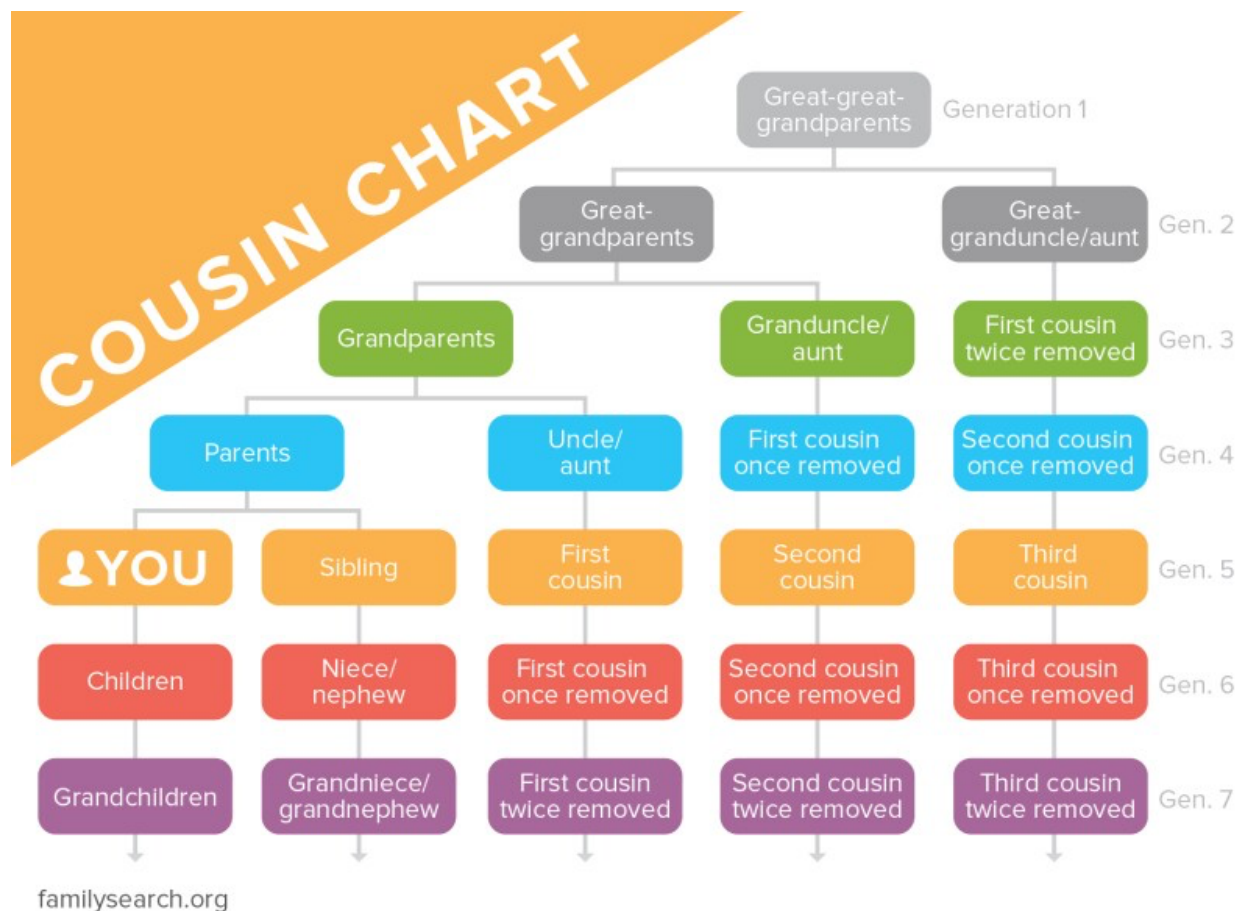
# What Is a Second Cousin?: How to Calculate Family Relationships

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July 23, 2019



Trying to figure out what to call your distant cousin? Even if you know what it means to be a [second, third, or fourth cousin](#) (and if you don't, [check out this simple, visual article for an explanation](#)), it can be hard to identify these relationships in real life. Even a question as simple as "What is a second cousin?" can be tricky. That's where the cousin calculator comes in handy—but knowing the basics is also a good place to start.

## Cousins: The Basics



## How do Cousins Work?

Cousins share a common grandparent. The cousin label (first cousin, second cousin, etc.) changes depending on which grandparent the cousins share.

## What is a Second Cousin?

A second cousin is a someone who shares a great-grandparent with you.

## What is a Second Cousin Once Removed?

A second cousin once removed is either the child of your second cousin or the parent of your third cousin. They are "once removed" because you are separated by 1 or more generations.

For a more in-depth look at cousins and what it means to be "removed," check out our [Cousin Relationships Explained](#) article. Or, if you have a more complicated cousin relationship to calculate, use the chart below.

## The Cousin Calculator

Quickly figure out how you are related with this fast and easy to use Cousin Calculator!

First, select how you are related to the common ancestor. For example, if the common ancestor is your great-grandparent, select "great grandparent" from the first drop-down menu. Then select your cousin's relationship to the common ancestor. The calculator will use this information to tell you how you are related!

Calculate your relationship to another cousin based on a common ancestor.

Your relationship to ancestor

Your cousin's relationship to same ancestor

The following cousin calculator ([click to enlarge](#)) can also help you figure out what to call your more distant cousins.

		YOUR GRANDPARENT											
		GRANDPARENT	GREAT-GRANDPARENT	2ND GREAT-GRANDPARENT	3RD GREAT-GRANDPARENT	4TH GREAT-GRANDPARENT	5TH GREAT-GRANDPARENT	6TH GREAT-GRANDPARENT	7TH GREAT-GRANDPARENT	8TH GREAT-GRANDPARENT	9TH GREAT-GRANDPARENT	10TH GREAT-GRANDPARENT	HOW IT WORKS
YOUR COUSIN'S GRANDPARENT	GRANDPARENT →	<b>1ST COUSIN</b>	1st Cousin, 1x Removed	1st Cousin, 2x Removed	1st Cousin, 3x Removed	1st Cousin, 4x Removed	1st Cousin, 5x Removed	1st Cousin, 6x Removed	1st Cousin, 7x Removed	1st Cousin, 8x Removed	1st Cousin, 9x Removed	1st Cousin, 10x Removed	<p>1. Identify the grandparents you and your cousin share. (Ex. Your 5th great-grandparent is your cousin's 7th great-grandparent)</p> <p>2. On the horizontal line, find your shared grandparent. (Ex. Your 5th great-grandparent)</p> <p>3. On the vertical line, find your cousin's shared grandparent. (Ex. Your cousin's 7th great-grandparent)</p> <p>4. See where the lines intersect. (Ex. You are 6th cousins, 2x removed.)</p>
	GREAT-GRANDPARENT →	1st Cousin, 1x Removed	<b>2ND COUSIN</b>	2nd Cousin, 1x Removed	2nd Cousin, 2x Removed	2nd Cousin, 3x Removed	2nd Cousin, 4x Removed	2nd Cousin, 5x Removed	2nd Cousin, 6x Removed	2nd Cousin, 7x Removed	2nd Cousin, 8x Removed	2nd Cousin, 9x Removed	
	2ND GREAT-GRANDPARENT →	1st Cousin, 2x Removed	2nd Cousin, 1x Removed	<b>3RD COUSIN</b>	3rd Cousin, 1x Removed	3rd Cousin, 2x Removed	3rd Cousin, 3x Removed	3rd Cousin, 4x Removed	3rd Cousin, 5x Removed	3rd Cousin, 6x Removed	3rd Cousin, 7x Removed	3rd Cousin, 8x Removed	
	3RD GREAT-GRANDPARENT →	1st Cousin, 3x Removed	2nd Cousin, 2x Removed	3rd Cousin, 1x Removed	<b>4TH COUSIN</b>	4th Cousin, 1x Removed	4th Cousin, 2x Removed	4th Cousin, 3x Removed	4th Cousin, 4x Removed	4th Cousin, 5x Removed	4th Cousin, 6x Removed	4th Cousin, 7x Removed	
	4TH GREAT-GRANDPARENT →	1st Cousin, 4x Removed	2nd Cousin, 3x Removed	3rd Cousin, 2x Removed	4th Cousin, 1x Removed	<b>5TH COUSIN</b>	5th Cousin, 1x Removed	5th Cousin, 2x Removed	5th Cousin, 3x Removed	5th Cousin, 4x Removed	5th Cousin, 5x Removed	5th Cousin, 6x Removed	
	5TH GREAT-GRANDPARENT →	1st Cousin, 5x Removed	2nd Cousin, 4x Removed	3rd Cousin, 3x Removed	4th Cousin, 2x Removed	5th Cousin, 1x Removed	<b>6TH COUSIN</b>	6th Cousin, 1x Removed	6th Cousin, 2x Removed	6th Cousin, 3x Removed	6th Cousin, 4x Removed	6th Cousin, 5x Removed	
	6TH GREAT-GRANDPARENT →	1st Cousin, 6x Removed	2nd Cousin, 5x Removed	3rd Cousin, 4x Removed	4th Cousin, 3x Removed	5th Cousin, 2x Removed	6th Cousin, 1x Removed	<b>7TH COUSIN</b>	7th Cousin, 1x Removed	7th Cousin, 2x Removed	7th Cousin, 3x Removed	7th Cousin, 4x Removed	
	7TH GREAT-GRANDPARENT →	1st Cousin, 7x Removed	2nd Cousin, 6x Removed	3rd Cousin, 5x Removed	4th Cousin, 4x Removed	5th Cousin, 3x Removed	6th Cousin, 2x Removed	7th Cousin, 1x Removed	<b>8TH COUSIN</b>	8th Cousin, 1x Removed	8th Cousin, 2x Removed	8th Cousin, 3x Removed	
	8TH GREAT-GRANDPARENT →	1st Cousin, 8x Removed	2nd Cousin, 7x Removed	3rd Cousin, 6x Removed	4th Cousin, 5x Removed	5th Cousin, 4x Removed	6th Cousin, 3x Removed	7th Cousin, 2x Removed	8th Cousin, 1x Removed	<b>9TH COUSIN</b>	9th Cousin, 1x Removed	9th Cousin, 2x Removed	
	9TH GREAT-GRANDPARENT →	1st Cousin, 9x Removed	2nd Cousin, 8x Removed	3rd Cousin, 7x Removed	4th Cousin, 6x Removed	5th Cousin, 5x Removed	6th Cousin, 4x Removed	7th Cousin, 3x Removed	8th Cousin, 2x Removed	9th Cousin, 1x Removed	<b>10TH COUSIN</b>	10th Cousin, 1x Removed	
10TH GREAT-GRANDPARENT →	1st Cousin, 10x Removed	2nd Cousin, 9x Removed	3rd Cousin, 8x Removed	4th Cousin, 7x Removed	5th Cousin, 6x Removed	6th Cousin, 5x Removed	7th Cousin, 4x Removed	8th Cousin, 3x Removed	9th Cousin, 2x Removed	10th Cousin, 1x Removed	<b>11TH COUSIN</b>		

FamilySearch.org

[Download Cousin Calculator](#)

[Download High-Resolution Cousin Calculator](#)

To use the chart, follow these steps:

1. Identify the grandparents you and your cousin share.

- Example: Your 5th great-grandparent is your cousin's 7th great-grandparent.

2. On the horizontal line, find your shared grandparent.

- Example: Your 5th great-grandparent.

3. On the vertical line, find your cousin's shared grandparent.

- Example: Your cousin's 7th great-grandparent.

4. See where the lines intersect.

- *Example: You connect the lines and see that you are 6th cousins, 2x removed.*

## How to Calculate Cousinship Using Math

If you enjoy math, you can also calculate your cousinship using the following method, which starts by asking three questions:

1. Who is the [common ancestor](#) of my cousin and me?

2. How many generations am *I* separated from this ancestor? How many generations is *my cousin* separated from this ancestor?

- **Hint:** Count the **number of “G’s”** in the common ancestor’s title and **add 1**. For example:
  - Your **Grandparents** (1G + 1 = 2) are **2** generations away
  - Your **Great-Grandparents** (2Gs + 1) are **3** generations away
  - Your **Great-Great Grandparent** (3Gs + 1 = 4) are **4** generations away

3. Who is [more removed](#) from the common ancestor?

- **Hint:** The person more removed from the common ancestor is the person whose common ancestor is **more generations away**.

The next steps will be different depending on how many generations both you and your cousin are from your common ancestor.

[Download Cousin Chart](#)

### **If you are both the SAME number of generations away from your common ancestor:**

*Example: The common ancestor is both you and your cousin’s great-great grandparents.*

1. Count how many “greats” are in your common ancestor’s title and **add 1**. This will give you the correct number to label your cousin as.

*Example: You and your relative share great-great grandparents. There are 2 “greats” in this title. 2 “greats” + 1 = 3, so you are **third cousins**.*

2. Because you are the same number of generations separated from each other’s common ancestor (meaning you are of the *same generation*), you and your cousin are **not removed** from each other.

### **If your cousin is FEWER generations away from your common ancestor than you are:**





*Example: The common ancestor is your cousin's great-grandparent and your great-great grandparent*

1. Count how many “greats” are in **your cousin's** common ancestor's title and **add 1**. You now have the correct number label for your cousin.

*Example: The common ancestor is **your cousin's** great-grandparent. 1 “great” + 1 = 2, so this is your **second cousin**.*

2. **Subtract** the number of generations **your cousin** is separated from the common ancestor from the number of generations **you** are separated from the common ancestor. The answer is **how removed** this cousin is from you.

*Example: If your great-great grandparent is your cousin's great-grandparent, then you are 4 generations removed and your cousin is 3 generations removed from your common ancestor. 4 generations – 3 generations = 1 generation removed, so this is your cousin **once removed**.*

*In this scenario, your relative is your **second cousin once removed**.*

**If your cousin is MORE generations away from the common ancestor than you are:**

*Example: The common ancestor is your cousin's 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandparent and your great-great grandparent*

1. Count how many “greats” are in **your** common ancestor’s title and **add 1**. Now you have the correct label for your cousin.

*Example: If the common ancestor is **your** great-grandparent, there is only one “great” in this title. 1 “great” + 1 = 2, so this is your **second cousin**.*

2. **Subtract** the number of generations **you** are separated from the common ancestor from the number of generations **your cousin** is separated from the common ancestor. The answer is **how removed** this cousin is from you.

*Example: If your cousin’s 3rd great-grandparent is your great-grandparent, then your cousin is 5 generations removed and you are 3 generations removed from the common ancestor. 5 generations – 3 generations = 2 generations removed, so you are my **cousin twice removed**.*

*In this scenario, your relative is your **second cousin twice removed**.*

## **Discover Your Family**

What with all your second, third, and fourth cousins and grandaunts and granduncles, your family tree is much larger than just your direct line. Discover more about your family by [starting your own family tree at FamilySearch](#).