

# Nicknames

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What's your name? Do people call you by your full name, or is there another name they use? People often call each other by a nickname, or another form of the person's name. Sometimes, nicknames are shorter than the person's real name. Robert might be called Bob or Rob. Or Katherine might be called Kathie, Kate, or Katy. Sometimes, the

nickname is almost as long as the real name. Robert might also be called Bobby, and Charles might be called Charley.

Some nicknames, though, have nothing to do with a person's real name. A young child might call a new baby by a name that sounds similar to the baby's name. For example, the baby's name might be Peter, but the young child might call him Peeps. Then, everyone in the family begins calling the baby Peeps. Some people even keep these nicknames when they get older.

A nickname can also be a shorter form of a person's

last name, too. A person whose last name starts with Mac, such as MacBain, might simply be called Mack.

Often, nicknames are just silly names that friends call each other. A boy named Jeff might give his friend Bob a special name like Sparky because Bob is a fast runner. Then Bob might give his friend Jeff a special name like Hot Dog because Jeff likes hot dogs.

Sometimes nicknames are used to make fun of people. Someone who doesn't have a lot of friends might be called Wimpy, or someone who is sad about something might be Grumpy. People should not use nicknames like these because they are unkind, and they make others feel bad about themselves.

Nicknames can be a way in which friends make each other feel special. They can be a private language between friends. Nicknames that make people feel happy are fun. However, nicknames that are unkind should never be used.



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