

Cousin Relationships

Until I starting researching my family history, I did not understand cousin relationships at all. Once I figured them out they were easy to understand. I have provided the following information to assist any 'newbies' like me in making that transition from confusion to understanding.

The following chart describes the "cousin relationships".

For two people trying to define their relationship:

1. Identify the relationship to the common ancestor for each person.
2. For the first party, look at the top **row** in the table and find the column heading that defines your relationship to the common ancestor. Follow that column down.
3. For the second party, look at the first **column** in the table and find the row title that defines your relationship to the common ancestor. Follow that row to the right.
4. Find the cell where the column and row (from #2 and #3 above) intersect. This is your relationship.

Common Ancestor	Child	Grandchild	Great Grandchild	Great Great Grandchild	Great Great Great Grandchild	Great Great Great Great Grandchild
Child	<i>Sibling</i>	Niece or Nephew	Grand Niece or Nephew	Great Grand Niece or Nephew	Great Great Grand Niece or Nephew	Great Great Great Grand Niece or Nephew
Grandchild	Niece or Nephew	<i>First Cousin</i>	First Cousin Once Removed	First Cousin Twice Removed	First Cousin Three Times Removed	First Cousin Four Times Removed
Great Grandchild	Grand Niece or Nephew	First Cousin Once Removed	<i>Second Cousin</i>	Second Cousin Once Removed	Second Cousin Twice Removed	Second Cousin Three Times Removed
Great Great Grandchild	Great Grand Niece or Nephew	First Cousin Twice Removed	Second Cousin Once Removed	<i>Third Cousin</i>	Third Cousin Once Removed	Third Cousin Twice Removed
Great Great Great Grandchild	Great Great Grand Niece or Nephew	First Cousin Three Times Removed	Second Cousin Twice Removed	Third Cousin Once Removed	<i>Fourth Cousin</i>	Fourth Cousin Once Removed
Great Great Great Great Grandchild	Great Great Great Grand Niece or Nephew	First Cousin Four Times Removed	Second Cousin Three Times Removed	Third Cousin Twice Removed	Fourth Cousin Once Removed	<i>Fifth Cousin</i>