

Difference between the terms - newborn, infants, toddlers

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English as a language has many variations. For instance, one word will have three different meanings or three different words will imply the same. For example: see, look and watch. They almost mean same but there is a variation in their meaning. When there is a little variation in the meaning, it tends to confuse us. In the same manner, there are three words – newborn, infants and toddlers which mean almost same, but have a difference between them. Let's learn the difference between them.

Remember, we use the word baby to refer any child from birth to age 4.

Newborn

The World Health Organization defines a newborn, as a baby under 28 days old. But mostly newborn refers to babies from birth to about two months of age.

Examples:

Yesterday, while travelling I saw a newborn baby who was very cute.

I heard that newborns generally can't see very clearly.



Infants

Infants are generally categorized under a year old. The word 'infant' is derived from a Latin term, 'infans', which means unable to speak. Babies under the age of one usually don't speak clearly.

Examples:

Infants grow faster and they can almost learn everything.

My niece is an infant baby.

Toddlers

The word 'toddler' comes from the word 'toddle'. 'Toddle' means to walk with short uncertain steps. The toddler stage lasts for about two years until the child matures into being able to completely walk, talk, feed and do simple tasks for himself/ herself. At this point, the baby is no longer considered a 'toddler', but a 'child'.



Examples:

See that toddler, how neatly he's eating his food.

My neighbor's toddler speaks very clearly.

So put together, a newborn is a baby who is under a month or two old whereas an 'infant' is a baby under a year old. A 'toddler' is a young child over a year of age that is leaving the 'baby' stage of life and learning to walk and talk.

Once your concepts are clear, you can speak in English fluently by using appropriate words. Hope the above explanation and examples will clear your doubt on the usage of newborn, infants and toddlers. Although, this is a very basic concept of English, we often tend to ignore such minor aspects. Through eAge [improve English](#) blogs; you can get acquainted with the best of knowledge in the simplest way.

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- By Chander Madan

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