

It takes three to tango: the baby!

When does life begin?

- There is no agreement in medicine, philosophy or theology:
 - At conception (the Church)?
 - When the foetus first moves (16-17 weeks - 'quickening')?
 - At the first sign of brain activity?
 - When the foetus is able to survive outside the womb?
 - At birth?

Can I find out the sex of my baby?

- You usually can during your second routine ultrasound scan (18 to 21 weeks of pregnancy)
- The sonographer will not be able to be 100% certain about your baby's sex
- You can also find out the sex of your baby using genetic tests

What are twin babies?

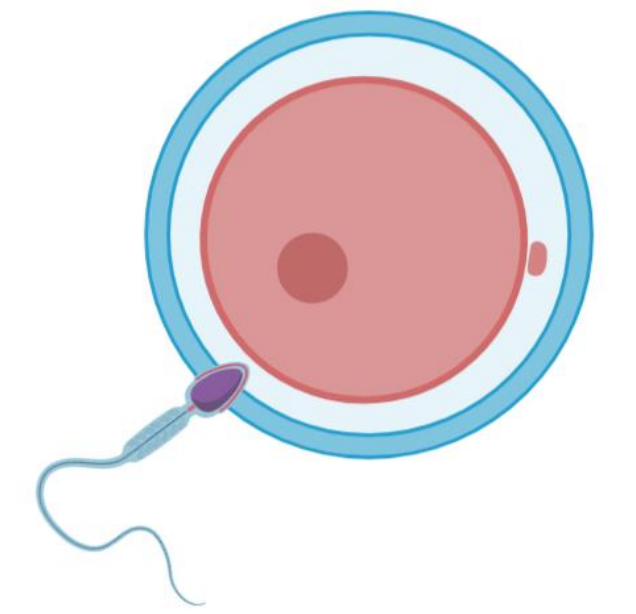
- Identical twins happen when 1 fertilised embryo splits into 2. They have same sex, same genes and look very alike
- Non-identical twins happen when 2 eggs are fertilised by 2 sperm at the same time. They do not have same genes or appearance and may be of different sex

Gestation

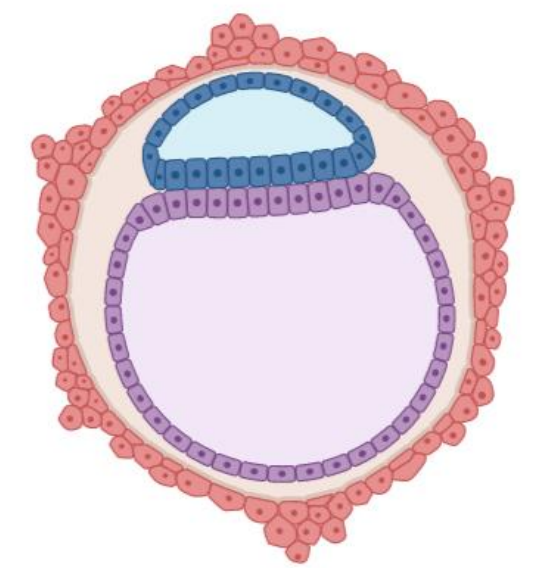
- Gestation is the period of time between conception and birth when a baby grows and develops inside the mother's womb. A normal gestation lasts 37 to 42 weeks.
- Gestational age is measured (in weeks) from the first day of mum's last menstrual cycle.
- During weeks 1 and 2, a woman is not yet pregnant (her body is preparing for a pregnancy).

First trimester (fertilization – week 12)

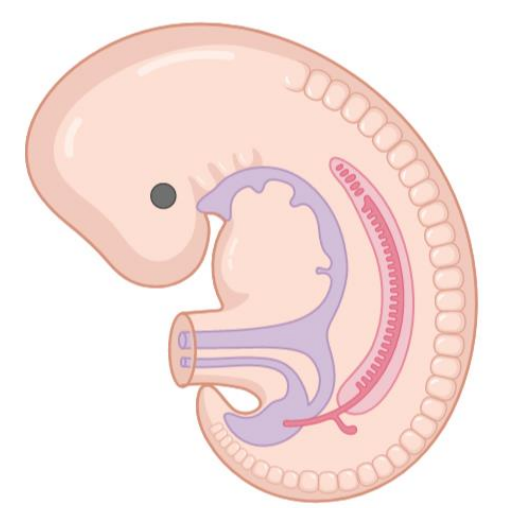
- At the end of week 2, an egg is released from an ovary. During intercourse, sperm enters the vagina, then travels through the uterus into the fallopian tubes. A single sperm enters the egg (fertilization). The combined sperm and egg (zygote) contains all the genetic information (DNA) needed to form a baby (half from mother's egg, half from father's sperm).
- Week 3: the zygote multiplies into a ball of cells (blastocyst) while it travels down the fallopian tube. Once the blastocyst reaches the uterus, it buries itself into the womb (implantation).
- Week 4: the ball of cells is now officially a human embryo. A pregnant woman is now able to get a positive result on a home pregnancy test. The baby is the size of a poppy seed.
- Week 5: the circulatory system is beginning to form, and the tiny "heart" will start to beat this week. The baby is the size of a sesame seed.
- Week 6: the kidney, intestines and brain are beginning to develop. The baby has a tail and is the size of a lentil.
- Week 7: the arms and legs are starting to form. The baby is the size of a blueberry.
- Week 8: the lungs are starting to develop. The baby is the size of a kidney bean.
- Weeks 9 – 12: all baby's organs are in place. From week 10 until birth, the baby is called fetus.



Fertilization (week 2)



Blastocyst (week 3)



Human embryo (week 6)



Human fetus (week 10)

Second trimester (week 13 – week 27)

- The baby begins to look more real. Important milestones include:
 - baby is beginning to make urine and release it into the amniotic sac as amniotic fluid (week 13)
 - baby's sex is becoming apparent (week 14)
 - baby's toenails develop (week 17)
 - baby begins to hear (week 18)
 - fingerprints and footprints form (week 23)
 - baby responds to sounds (week 25)
- By end of second trimester the baby is 23 cm long from crown to rump and weigh nearly 2 pounds (820 grams).

Third trimester (week 28 – week 40)

- Development of the baby continues during the third trimester. The baby will gain more weight, and prepare for delivery. Important milestones:
 - baby's eyes partially open (week 28)
 - baby kicks and stretches (week 29)
 - baby's hair grows (week 30)
 - baby practices breathing (week 32)
 - baby detects light (week 33)
- Weeks 40: due date arrives. An average baby has a crown to rump length of around 36 cm and a weigh of 7 1/2 pounds (3,400 grams). It's normal to give birth before or after your due date.



Human fetus (week 25)

Read more

NHS:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/pregnancy-and-baby/pregnancy-week-by-week/>

Mayo Clinic:

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/pregnancy-week-by-week/in-depth/prenatal-care/art-20045302>



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