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dictionary

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birth  (bûrth)

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n.

1.

a. The emergence and separation of offspring from the body of the mother.

b. The act or process of bearing young; parturition: *the mare's second birth*.

c. The circumstances or conditions relating to this event, as its time or location: *an incident that took place before my birth; a Bostonian by birth*.

2.

a. The set of characteristics or circumstances received from one's ancestors; inheritance: *strong-willed by birth; acquired their wealth through birth*.

b. Origin; extraction: *of Swedish birth; of humble birth*.

c. Noble or high status: *persons of birth*.

3. A beginning or commencement. See Synonyms at [beginning](#).

tr.v. birthed, birth-ing, births

1. To deliver (a baby).

2. *Chiefly Southern US* To bear (a child).

[Middle English, probably of Scandinavian origin; see **bher**-¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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