

What is a first cousin once removed?

Relationships can be so complicated.....

People who have the same parents as us are our brothers and sisters.

People who have the same grandparents (but not parents) are our first cousins (we just call them cousins).

People who have the same great-grandparents (but not grandparents or parents) are our second cousins.

And so on.

Cousins belong to the same generation as each other.

Second cousins belong to the same generation as each other.

The relationship between cousins of different generations is where 'removal' comes in.

My mother's cousin is my first cousin once removed, because she is one generation 'removed' from me.

My mother's second cousin is my second cousin once removed, because she is also one generation 'removed' from me.

And my mother's first cousin once removed is my first cousin twice removed, because she is one generation 'removed' from my mother, and therefore two generations 'removed' from me.