

Nicknames

The word nickname means “added name.” Nicknames are used in place of a person’s real name. Some nicknames are based on a person’s first name. For example, Matt is a nickname for Matthew. Some nicknames are based on what a person has done. John Chapman traveled around the country handing out apple seeds. Now he is known as Johnny Appleseed.

Nicknames can also be based on how a person looks. A person with red hair might be called Red or Carrot-top. A lot of people in politics have nicknames. Some are nice nicknames. Some are not very kind. Many people who liked Abraham Lincoln called him Honest Abe. People who didn’t like him called him Old Abe.

Some people are given nicknames based on where they were born. For example, a person from Texas might be called Tex. If you are an American, you might be called a Yankee. Sometimes people are given special, loving nicknames. Some moms and dads call their children Precious or Sweetie. Moms and dads often use nicknames, like Honey or Dear, when they talk to each other, too. It is not unusual to have a nickname. Do you have one?