

**Childbirth**

The **expected date of delivery (EDD)** is the date on which a woman is expected to give birth to the child she is **carrying** (pregnant with). It is calculated by adding 280 days or 40 weeks to the first day of the last menstrual period (LMP). **Childbirth** is also referred to by doctors as **parturition**. **Delivery** is the process of helping the child to be born. A **spontaneous vaginal delivery (SVD)** is a normal delivery. If there are complications, the baby may be delivered by **caesarean section** (surgically removed).

A **full-term pregnancy** is 40 weeks, divided into three **trimesters**. A baby who is born before this is **premature**, and one born after 40 weeks is **postmature**. A baby who is born dead, for example because the **umbilical cord** is around its neck, is **stillborn**. A pregnancy may end before term spontaneously, with a **miscarriage (spontaneous abortion)**, or be deliberately terminated with an **induced abortion (termination of pregnancy)**.

Note: the verb **induce** means to cause something to happen.

**Labour**

The process by which the fetus and placenta are pushed out of the uterus is called **labour**. It is divided into four stages. Some words which are combined with labour are:

premature prolonged spontaneous induced false	labour
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**Presentation and lie**

**Fetal lie** is the position of the fetus in the uterus. The normal lie is **longitudinal**, and the abnormal lie is **transverse**. **Fetal presentation** refers to ‘the part of the fetus which occupies the centre of the pelvic canal and which the examining finger feels on vaginal examination’ (Butterworth). The normal presentation is with the head (**vertex presentation**). **Breech presentation** means the buttocks are presenting (*breech* is an old word for *buttocks*). Abnormal presentations may require delivery with **forceps**.

**Complete the sentences. Look at the above text to help you.**

- 1 A baby that is born a week before the EDD is \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 A \_\_\_\_\_ of pregnancy may be necessary for medical reasons.
- 3 The first three months of pregnancy are known as the first \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 Fetal distress in the first stage of \_\_\_\_\_ is an indication for caesarean \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 It was a breech \_\_\_\_\_ and delivery was by forceps.
- 6 A \_\_\_\_\_ is another term for a spontaneous abortion.
- 7 The \_\_\_\_\_ was wound tightly around the baby’s neck and it was unfortunately \_\_\_\_\_.

Complete the table with words from the above text (Childbirth).

Verb	Noun
abort	
deliver	
	induction
miscarry	
present	
	termination

Dr Bennet, an SHO, is presenting a patient at a weekly meeting in the obstetric unit of a hospital. Complete the presentation with the correct forms of the verbs from the above table.

This is Clara Davis. She came to the antenatal clinic at nine weeks. In her past obstetric history, she had a pregnancy when she was 18, which was (1) \_\_\_\_\_ and another one year later, which spontaneously (2) \_\_\_\_\_. Since then she has had three pregnancies. In the first, the baby was (3) \_\_\_\_\_ normally at 40 weeks. In the second, she had an (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of labour at 39 weeks because of fetal distress. The third baby (5) \_\_\_\_\_ as a breech and was (6) \_\_\_\_\_ by caesarean section.

Express your idea.

**Romanian woman gives birth at 66**  
 A 66-year-old woman is believed to have become the world's oldest mother yesterday, after giving birth to a girl.

*The Guardian, 17 January 2005*

What is the oldest and youngest age for giving birth that you have known? In your opinion, should assisted conception be available for anyone who wants it? If not, what do you think the limits should be?