



The above chart gives the relationship between 4 generations of family lines of descent with one pair of common ancestors.

The 'remove' comes in when you cross the generations and direct lines.

For example

- My mother & her cousin Flo, have common grandparents (the Common Ancestors)
- Their mothers were siblings.
- That makes them 1st cousins.
- That means that Flo and myself are 1st cousins, once removed (as it crosses from one generation to the next)
- However, Flo's son Tony is my 2nd cousin (same generation, different line of descent).
- Tony's son Leon, is my 2nd cousin once removed (again crossing the generations)
- Leon's relationship to my mother is 1st cousin, twice removed
- My daughter, Carrie, is Leon's 3rd cousin.
- However, Carrie is Flo's 1st cousin twice removed

Whichever two people you are trying to work out the relationship between, you should:

- ⤴ Start with the oldest generation and go directly across that generation to find the 'cousin number'
- ⤴ Then down the line of descent until you reach the generation of the younger person.
- ⤴ The number of generations crossed, will give you the number of 'removes'.

Try printing of the chart and writing your families names against the appropriate boxes. You should be able to work out if you're on the right track by using the relationships you're sure of as a starting point.