

The following phrases are just some of the terms that have been used to describe people of various heritages including mixed-race.

**However, through our extensive research with children and young people we have found that the term ‘mixed-race’ is the most preferred.**

‘U’ (USA) denotes terms typically used in the USA

‘D’ (Derogatory) denotes terms that are generally considered to be out-dated and offensive.

‘N’ (New) denotes more recent, but equally offensive term.

‘P’ (Preferred) denotes that the young people of Multiple Heritage say they prefer-as indicated by recent research undertaken by the project.

**Asian:** In England, “Asian” most commonly refers to people of Indian or Pakistani descent, whereas “oriental” might refer to East and Southeast Asians (NOTE: “oriental” is certainly considered politically incorrect in the United States).

**Bi-Racial:** (U) Of two races

**Black:** Is not a real skin colour - tends to be used as a ‘political identity’ for non-white people who suffer discrimination on the grounds of race

**Borderliner:** (D)

**Bounty:** (D) Traditionally, someone ‘black’ who ‘acts white’

**Breed:** (Half-breed): (D) ‘Street’ term for people of mixed-race - suggests there are ‘pure breeds’ or races that are contaminated or watered down when people ‘mix’.

**Brownie:** (D) Street term for mixed-race girls

**Chequerboard:** (D)

**Coconut:** (D) same as ‘Bounty’

**Coloured:** (D) In South Africa, this term refers to a ‘mixed’ group of people with African and European ancestry. In UK, it’s generally considered outdated and inappropriate as all people are considered to have a ‘colour’.

**Coolie:** (D) This term is used to refer to people of Asian descent. The indentured slave labourers with Indian origins were called this in the Caribbean

**Coon:** (D) An extremely offensive term for a 'person of colour'

**Confused.com:** (N)(D) People of mixed-race who are often (incorrectly) assumed to be confused about their identity

**Creole:** (D) In most of Latin America, Creole generally refers to people of mixed Spanish or Portuguese descent and in Brazil it is a slang word for Black individuals. The term has also been used to denote someone whose ancestry is so mixed that they do not belong to any other categories

**Dual Heritage:** (P) Some young people dislike the notion of only referring to two backgrounds (See 'Shared Heritage')

**Dusky:** (D) To describe a person with an off-white complexion

**Eurasian:** A term that refers to those of European and Asian parentage

**Fair-skinned:** A light complexion

**Grey:** (D) A shade when black is mixed with white

**Half-black:** (D)

**Half-breed:** (D) See 'Breed'

**Half-Caste:** (D) In India, the population was divided into four hierarchical castes according to what they were good at, that is, priests, warriors, trades people and manual workers. Once a person is born in a 'lower' caste, he or she cannot move up to another 'higher' caste - nor can they marry into other castes. Children born out of wedlock from liaisons between the castes are known as 'half-caste'. The higher caste Indians of course used that as an excuse to keep the lower caste down using 'Institutional Castism'.

**Half-chat:** (D) Slang for half-caste

**Half-pure:** (D) Perpetuates notion of there being 'pure races' that are tainted or sullied where 'mixed-race' people exist

**Half-white:** (D)

**Hexadecaroon:** (D) One sixth black

**High yellow:** (D) Jamaican, and old USA term for people of fair complexion

**Hovis 'best of both':** (N)(D) Implies that pure races exist

**Hybrid:** (D) Generally refers to something of mixed origin or composition - a mix of two different species

**Marranos:** (D) Probably comes from the Arabic word for moharrama or muharram or mahram meaning "a forbidden thing". The term 'marrano' can also refer to a 'swine' or something 'filthy'

**Metis:** (D) French and related to the Spanish word mestizo but basically means 'mixed blood'...Portuguese for dog

**Mixed Blood:** (D) Historically, there had been controversy over interracial couples, which still exists in some contexts, such as fears of 'racial impurity' when people have children of 'mixed blood'

**Mixed Heritage:** (P) Parents from different heritage backgrounds. Often used as a modern academic term to describe mixed-race people

**Mixed Parentage:** (P) A slightly outdated version of Multiple Heritage. Not widely used

**Mixed-Race:** (P) At the time of writing, this appears to be the most popular term used by young people of mixed-race to describe themselves

**Mix-d:** (P) Our term to describe a modern 'lived' mixed-race experience

**Mongrel:** (D) Of mixed breed or origin, relates to dogs

**Mulatto:** (D) Term meaning 'small mule' in Spanish - someone ashamed of both races

**Mule:** (D) Offspring of any two creatures specifically a male donkey and female horse

**Multiethnic:** (U) Used more commonly in US

**Multiple Heritage:** (P) Similar to 'mixed-heritage'

**Multiracial:** (U) Of many races

**Mutt:** (D) Slang for mongrel dog

**Nigga:** (D) Nigga is a word which evolved from the derogative term “nigger”. Term of racist abuse for a black person. Originates from the United States

**Nigger:** (D) A term used to describe a black person, who is stereotypically considered bad, poor, lazy, addict or criminal. This term was first used during the period when blacks were discriminated against and used as slaves.

**No Nation:** (N)(D) Obviously intimates that people of mixed-race belong nowhere

**Octoroon:** (D) One eighth Black blood

**One drop rule:** One-drop-theory (or one drop rule) is a colloquial term for the standard - fought throughout UA and holds that a person with even one drop of non-white ancestry should be classified as “coloured”, especially for the purposes of laws forbidding interracial marriage.

This standard has also been applied to people with American Indian Ancestry. One-drop theory is still influential in the US - be de facto American colour standards, a multiracial person with visible black heritage is considered black unless they declare themselves otherwise, identifying instead as white, mixed-race or American Indian, for example. (Different colour standards can be seen in countries such as Brazil). These standards are widely rejected by American’s Latino community, the majority of whom are of mixed ancestry.

The theory was codified in law in some states, although the expression coloured was often used, at least acknowledging the presence of non-black ancestry. For example: The racial Integrity Act of 1942 of Virginia United States was a law that had required the racial makeup of persons to be recorded at birth and prevented marriage between “white persons” and non-white persons. The law was the most famous ban on miscegenation in the United States and was overturned by the United States Supreme Court in 1967.

**Paki:** (D) A Pakistani or more generally, a person who is perceived to be a Pakistani often applied to persons of any South Asian or Middle Eastern origin or indeed immigrant. Although deriving from the word Pakistan, Paki became offensive during the 1960s when used by British citizens to refer to immigrants in a racist manner.

**Pick ‘n’ Mix:** (N)(D) Like selecting sweets, implies ‘pure races’ can be ‘mixed’

**Quadroon:** (D) One quarter Black blood

**Quarter caste:** (D) Term for a person who has one ‘mono-heritage’ parent and one ‘mixed-race’ parent

**Quintoon:** Offspring of an Octoroon and a European. Basically it means having ancestry that is one-sixteenth African

**Red Skin:** (D) Caribbean slang for people with fair skin

**Shared Heritage:** Where one of the child's parents comes from a mixed heritage themselves

**Simpsons:** (N)(D) This yellow animated family is meant to allude to the 'yellowness' of mixed-race people

**Spurious person:** (D) Not legitimate or genuine - used to describe mixed-race people in America around mid 1800s

**Waki:** (N)(D) A person with one white parent and one Pakistani parent

**White:** Not a true skin colour (see 'Black')

**Wigga:** (D) A 'white' person who 'acts black'

