

## Leap Year: What it's like being born on 29 February?

Imagine only having a birthday every four years. On 29 February, about 5 million people around the world celebrate their once-every-four-years 'real' birthday.

For some of the so-called 'leaplings,' being born on 29 February is an excuse to celebrate over two days when it's not a leap year - but for others, getting into nightclubs is tricky when the **bouncers** think their security is **fake**.

### 2. Now watch this second video (click on the link below) – there's a mistake in the subtitles, can you find it?

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-51662371/leap-year-what-it-s-like-being-born-on-29-february>

"This year we'll be celebrating Jacob's very first birthday."

"This year I get to celebrate my ninth birthday."

"I will be **turning** six this year."

You may be wondering, "how are all these people from around the world connected?"

These people are part of a very exclusive group. They're called "leaplings" or "leapers" and there's about five million of them in the world.

"I'm turning 12 this year."

"I'm going to be ten."

"Thirteen this coming leap day."

"Almost the big one-O."

"It's my second official birthday."

Being born on February 29<sup>th</sup> is rare.

It's a one in 1,461 chance. If you like statistics, well, you're more likely to be born with 11 fingers than be born a leapling.

"It's a magical day to be born. The best day."

"A lot of the times, people think my **ID** is **fake**."

"The **bouncers** wouldn't let me in because there was no 29<sup>th</sup> of February that year."

"Nobody knows how to do **math**..... tell them how many leap year birthdays it is, what your real age is."

"My 11 and my 14 old daughter are officially older than me, they love that."

"Make funny jokes like call me 'big baby!'".

"It helps me speak with strangers."

"I wasn't allowed to **date** any boys until I was 16 in leap years. When I get there – watch out guys!"

And meet the Robbins family in Bristol. Brothers Zach, Reuben, Josh and Sam are all leaplings. Yep, you guessed it... **Quads!!!**

"Even though we're gonna be eight.... this is only our second official birthday."

So what about when it's not a leap year?

"I can convince my friends to celebrate my birthday two days in a **row** on the 28<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>."

"First of March."

"Twenty-eighth of February"

"I've got two chances to get my birthday presents."

"I used to just **pencil** in '29' just to feel like I had a birthday, just like everybody else."

"Happy birthday to all the leaplings out there."

"Happy leap year everyone!"

"Here's turning 11."

Happy birthday leaplings!

## VOCABULARY

**Turn** /tɜ:n/ = To reach and pass (a specified age), become officially one year older: *She is turning 50 this year*

**ID** / ai 'di:/ (identity) = A form of identification, especially an ID card.

**Fake** /feɪk/ = not genuine; imitation or counterfeit, forgery, copy

**Bouncer** /'baʊnsə/ = a person employed by a nightclub or similar establishment to prevent troublemakers and other unwanted people entering or to eject them from the premises.

**Math** /maθ/ (American English) mathematics. – **Maths** /maθs/ (British English)

**Date** /deɪt/ = a social or romantic appointment or engagement, engagement, rendezvous

**Quad** /kwɒd/ = a quadruplet.

**Row** /rəʊ/ = a number of people or things in a more or less straight line.

**Pencil in** /'pens(ə)l, 'pensɪl/ = write something in with a pencil; schedule something tentatively