

# begotten

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Something is *begotten* when it's been generated by procreation — in other words, it's been fathered.

A somewhat old fashioned adjective, *begotten* is the past participle of the verb *beget*, which means to father or produce as offspring. You might recognize this word from John 3:16, one of the most popular and most often quoted bible verses: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only *begotten* Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

## Definitions of *begotten*

1. **adjective** (of offspring) generated by procreation

*"naturally begotten child"*

Synonyms: [biological](#)  
of parents and children; related by blood

Think you know **begotten**? Test your word knowledge now:

**begotten** means :

- neglected
- forbidden
- biological
- bewitched

ASSESSMENT: 100 POINTS

## Examples from Books and Articles

All sources 

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All the children born or **begotten** in that year, and there were many, were fair to see and strong, and most of them had a rich golden hair that had before been rare among hobbits.

*The Return of the King*

Or, if **begotten**, to have fallen from the womb Straight into the grave, And to be smothered, unknowing, In the dirt of Hades.

*The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation, Volume I: The Pox Party*

Her curse had devoured the first Royal; he had been **begotten** in sin, and he had perished in sin; it was God's punishment, and it was just.

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

"Yet not so poor," the other replied politely, "for the women of your house do you credit, and you have **begotten** five healthy sons."

*Nectar in a Sieve*

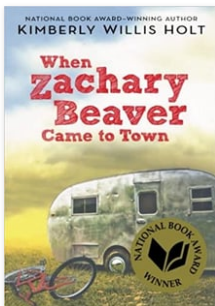
DISCLAIMER: These example sentences appear in various news sources and books to reflect the usage of the word 'begotten'. Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of [Vocabulary.com](https://www.vocabulary.com) or its editors. [Send us feedback](#)

## Word Family

begotten

the "begotten" family

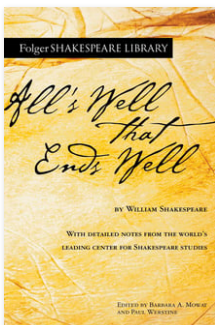
## Vocabulary lists containing *begotten*



### When Zachary Beaver Came to Town

Kimberly Willis Holt

In this coming-of-age story, a thirteen-year-old boy learns about loss and friendship over the course of one eventful summer.



### All's Well That Ends Well

William Shakespeare

Helena, the ward of a countess, falls in love with the countess's son, Bertram — but Bertram goes to great lengths to avoid marrying Helena.