Anglo Saxon Names.

In the Anglo Saxon period most people only had one name. This was their first name.

It was possible that many people could have the same name and this could be confusing.

Sometime people used nicknames in order to that they could be identified.

An example of a nickname is **Eadwig "ceorla cyngc."** This man was known as Eadwig the peasant king.

Most Anglo Saxon names were made up of two parts. Each part meant something. Men and women used different words to make up their name.

Below is some examples of the words that were used to make up the names.

Men's names

First Part	Meaning	Second Part	Meaning
aelf	supernatural, elf	**gar**	spear
aethel	noble	**heah**	high
ead	blessed	**raed**	advice
eald	old	**ric**	powerful
god	god	**sige**	victory
		stan	stone
		weard	guardian
		wine	friend

Some words could be used as either the first or second part of the name. These were:

os god

wulf wolf

beorht bright

Examples of male names are:

Wulfstan = wolf stone   Aethelstan = noble stone

Aethelwulf = noble wolf   Eadsige = blessed victory

Aelfgar = supernatural spear   Godric = powerful god

Women's names

First Part	Meaning	Second Part	Meaning
aelf	supernatural, elf	flaed	beauty
aethel	noble	gifu	gift
ead	blessed	gyth	battle
wyn	joy	thryth	power
god	god	wyn	joy

Examples of women's names:

Aethelflaed = noble beauty   Eadwyn = blessed joy

Eadgifu = blessed gift   Godwyn = God's joy

Aelfwynn = supernatural joy   Wynthryth = powerful joy

If you were an Anglo Saxon, what would your name be?