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Top names given by Brits to their cars

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Author:

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As the new '25' plate graces the nation's forecourts, The Motor Ombudsman has commissioned a poll that reveals the top personal names given to their cars by people in Britain...

They tell us...

(Images and all words from The Motor Ombudsman).

- As the new '25' vehicle registration arrives in showrooms across England and Scotland and Wales, 'Betty' is set to be the top name bestowed to a car by owner according to a Motor Ombudsman poll of nearly 1,600 vehicle owners



- 'Fred' emerged as the second favourite and the highest-ranked male name from the preferences stated by survey respondents
- For the five most popular choices according to the study, owners have ventured down a more classic and traditional route, with those carrying an element of heritage and historical significance coming to the fore
- Electric vehicles (EVs) have also sparked inspiration, with 'Eevee' seen as a front-runner for zero-emission models

London, 03 March 2025 With the arrival of the '25' vehicle registration across showrooms in England,

Scotland and Wales – a key milestone in the first quarter of the annual motoring calendar, a Censuswide

poll commissioned by The Motor Ombudsman, which included polling of almost 1,600 car owners, has

revealed the top names that motorists are set to grant their pride and joy.

The findings of the survey show that 'Betty' is the top pick overall¹, and the likeliest female moniker for

those looking to christen their new car, making up close to a third (30%) of the top five choices stated by

survey participants²

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'Fred', which comes in as the second favourite (26%), has been heralded as the most sought-after male name²

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Giving a car added identity allows drivers to truly make it their own, coupled with a sense of personality

and familiarity. Nearly a fifth of motorists (18%) who took part in the study admitted to giving their wheels a

meaningful name, putting it on a par with a member of the family and a trusted companion.



For those aged between 18 and 24, where a car is likely seen as a symbol of status and independence as their driving career begins, this group emerged as the most keen to label their vehicle (27%). At the other end of the scale however, only around one in ten (14%) of people aged 55 and over would follow suit. In fact, when looking at the top five most desired names stated by respondents, owners seem to have looked to embrace a more classic and traditional route, where choices also carry an element of heritage and historical significance.

With 'Betty' having more regal roots - derived from 'Elizabeth', and 'Fred' finding its origins in a title for noble leaders, 'Ruby', associated with a gemstone, is the third most in-demand name (17% of top five choices) 2, first gaining prominence in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and clearly still having timeless appeal amongst today's car owners.

Rounding off the top five ranking is 'Bessie' - derived from a 16th century nickname for Elizabeth, and

'Fifi' - a shortened version of the French name 'Josephine'. Similarly, as battery power gains increasing prominence amongst motorists, electric vehicles (EVs) have also sparked the imagination, with 'Eevee' also coming to the fore as a personal choice.

Away from the more common gender-specific names, pursuing a more neutral direction was also identified

as a trend from the names earmarked by respondents, with 'Mystery Machine', 'The Black Bullet' and

'Silver Streak', all being contenders. For literature and movie buffs, 'Quasimodo' - one of the main

characters of The Hunchback of Notre Dame, a French novel, and 'Genie' from Aladdin, were cast into the

spotlight - preferences possibly inspired by films and literature from yesteryear.



Commenting on the survey findings, Bill Fennell, Chief Ombudsman and Managing Director of The Motor

Ombudsman, said: "Getting the keys to a new vehicle is an exciting time, especially when you're amongst

the first to drive off the forecourt with one sporting the year's first new registration.

Furthermore, with such

a financial and emotional investment that goes into buying a car, personalisation in the modern era

highlights the significance in creating something which is unique to them, whilst the principle of naming is

designed to reinforce the importance that drivers place in their vehicles as an integral part of their

lifestyle."

Bill added: "Whilst the survey has shown that many of the top choices of names hark back to past eras, it

will be interesting to see whether the ongoing shift to zero emission and electrification changes these

trends going forward, as the first EV-derived names start to creep into the top choices."

To find a car retailer that is accredited to The Motor Ombudsman's Vehicle Sales Code, visit

www.TheMotorOmbudsman.org/Garage-Finder

1 From results of a survey carried out between 24.01.2025 - 28.01.2025. Car owners' demographic profile determined by natural fall

out as there is no data available to represent the national population. All data based on this survey unless otherwise stated.

2 Calculation uses the percentage of respondents who named their car this, out of the number of respondents who named their car

any of the top 5 names.

More information:



Top five most popular names for cars (based on the percentage of the top five most allocated names for cars stated by survey respondents who own or have owned a car)²

- Betty (30%)
- Fred (26%)
- Ruby (17%)
- Bessie (13%)
- Fifi (13%)



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Top five

PERSONAL CAR NAMES

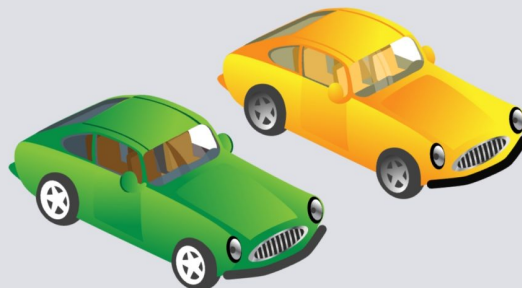
1 Betty

2 Fred

3 Ruby

4 Bessie

5 Fifi



The classification comes from the results of a Motor Ombudsman-commissioned survey carried out between 24.01.2025 - 28.01.2025.



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About The Motor Ombudsman

The Motor Ombudsman is the independent and impartial Ombudsman dedicated solely to the automotive sector, and self-regulates the UK's motor industry through its comprehensive Chartered Trading Standards

Institute (CTSI)-approved Codes of Practice. Thousands of businesses, including vehicle manufacturers, warranty product providers, franchised dealers and independent garages, are

accredited to one or more of the Codes, which drive even higher standards of work and service, and

give consumers added protection, peace of mind and trust during the vehicle purchase and ownership experience.

The Motor Ombudsman provides a comprehensive library of impartial motoring resources for consumers

embarking on the car buying and ownership journey.

For more information on The Motor Ombudsman, visit
www.TheMotorOmbudsman.org