

The tradition of giving cute names to unborn babies

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Many of my friends gave names to their unborn babies. Most of them were based on various objects that were the size of the adorable little parasite¹ at the time they discovered that they were pregnant:

- The Peanut
- Gumdrops
- Jellybean
- Blueberry
- Mr. Bean

There were a few outliers, though.

- Tadpole
- Aubergine

That last one takes a bit of explaining. Having grown tired of people asking her what she was planning on naming the baby, my friend made up an absurd name and used it with a straight face. “We’re think of naming her Aubergine, if it’s a girl.” People would respond with a polite but confused “Oh, that’s an interesting name.” Then, still deadpan, she would add, “If it’s a boy, then we’re leaning toward Mad-Dog.” That usually tipped people off that she was just messing with them.

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¹ A peek behind the curtain: I couldn’t decide whether to write fetus or embryo, and I knew that if I picked one, then people would say that I should’ve picked the other, so I decided to avoid the issue entirely by writing “adorable little parasite”. This is what nitpickers have turned me into.

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