

FROM DJEFFREY TO JYFREE

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Over the years I have seen many different variants of my first name, Jeffrey. This is an attempt to catalogue some of them. 400 examples were found on the Internet using the Google search program. The subset below contains 124 apparently genuine variants, all of which are probably pronounced more or less the same as Jeffrey. The ones with a plus are recorded on the Kabalarians online name database (www.kabalarians.com, "How important is your name?"), and those with an asterisk are old forms.

Djeffrey+, Geaffery*, Geaffrey, Geafrey*, Geffary, Geffarye*, Geffere*, Gefferey+, Gefferie+, Geffery+, Gefferye*, Geffirey*, Gefforey, Geffory+, Geffre+, Geffree, Geffrei*, Geffrey+, Geffreye*, Geffri, Geffrie*, Geffry+, Geffrye*, Geforie*. Gefory*, Gefrei*, Gefrey+, Gefry, Geiffrey, Geifry*, Geoferey, Geofery+, Geoffarey*, Geoffary+, Geofferey+, Geoffery+, Geofferye*, Geoffori, Geoffory+, Geoffre+, Geoffree+, Geoffrei*, Geoffreoy*, Geoffrey+, Geoffreye, Geoffri, Geoffrie+, Geoffry+, Geoffrye*, Geofre, Geofre, Geofree+, Geofrey+, Geofri+, Geofrie*, Geofry+, Geophery+, Geophrey, Geophry, Iefery*. Iefferie*, Ieffery*, Iefferye*, Ieffrey, Ieffry*, Iefrey*, Jaefree, Jeaffry, Jeafrey+, Jefarie*, Jefere*, Jeferey, Jeferi*, Jeferie, Jefery+, Jeffari+, Jeffary+, Jeffeory+, Jeffere, Jefferee, Jeffereoy+, Jefferey+, Jefferie+, Jefferrey, Jeffery+, Jefferye*, Jefforee, Jefforey+, Jefforie+, Jeffory+, Jeffre+, Jeffree+. Jeffrei, Jeffrey+, Jeffreye+, Jeffri+, Jeffrie+, Jeffry+, Jeffrye+, Jefory*, Jefre+, Jefree+. Jeffrey+, Jeffreye*, Jefri+, Jefrie+, Jefry+, Jeofery*, Jeoferye*, Jeoffery+, Jeoffory, Jeoffrey+, Jeoffri, Jeoffrie, Jeoffry+, Jeoffrye*, Jeofrey+, Jeofry, Jeophery, Jeophrey, Jephery, Jephrey+, Jheffery, Jheffrey, Jheffry

These can be divided into six components: a J (or soft G) consonant, a short-E vowel, an F (or FF) consonant, a schwa (sometimes omitted), an R consonant, and a long-E vowel. The presence of the schwa converts the name from two to three syllables. Each spelling is followed by the number of occurrences.

G 57, J 57, I 7, Jh 3, Dj 1
 e 75, eo 42, ea 5, ei 2 ae 1
 ff 80, f 38 ph 7
 no schwa 68, e 36, eo 12, a 7, i 1
 r 124, rr 1
 y 38, ey 19, ie 13, ye 10, i 9, e 8, ee 8, ei 4, eye 4, eoy 2

If all possible combinations appeared, there would be $5 \times 5 \times 3 \times 5 \times 2 \times 10 = 7500$ variant spellings!

The editor points out that a census website (www.census.gov/genealogy/names) ranks the 1200 commonest male given names in the United States: Jeffrey 30, Jeffery 118, Geoffrey 368, Jeffry 620, Jefferey 999. Jeffrey represents 5.9%, Jeffery 1.7%, and Geoffrey 0.3% of all male names.

The rest of the 400 Google examples include variants that are likely to be pronounced differently, or are misspellings (Jyfree, in the title, is the final one). A further Net search revealed such oddities as Ejjfrey, Gfefery, Gepffrey, Gefferyy, Geoffxey, Hjeffrey, Gwffery, Jefffrey, Jeffyer, Jefrfey, Jegffrey and Jrffry!