Method names

Methods are generally referred to by an official name assigned to them by the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers; such names have three standard parts: the method's name proper, its *class*, and its *stage*.

NAME -- The name proper is the method's personal name. The oldest methods have long-established names; but new methods are constantly being devised and rung, and the Central Council generally allows each to be named by the band which first rings a peal in it. Most often these methods end up with a place name, such as the band's village; but people's names and still more fanciful inventions are not uncommon.

CLASS -- The class describes the method, putting it in some established category of methods that work in similar ways. Methods in the simplest category omit this second name and use a simple two-part name.

STAGE -- The stage indicates the number of bells, using unique terminology:

Number of Bells	Stage Name
3	Singles
5	Doubles
7	Triples
9	Caters
11	Cinques (pronounced *sinks*)

Number of Bells	Stage Name
4	Minimus
6	Minor
8	Major
10	Royal
12	Maximus

As can be seen, there are different naming systems for even- and odd-bell stages. The odd-bell stage names refer to the number of possible swaps that can be made from row to row; in *caters* and *cinques* can be seen the French numbers *quatre* and *cinq* while the stage name for three-bell ringing is indeed "singles". Higher odd-bell stages follow the same pattern (*sextuples*, *septuples*, etc.) while higher even-bell stages have more prosaic names: *fourteen*, *sixteen*, etc.).

Note that the names refer to the number of bells being permuted, which is not necessarily the same as the number being rung: for it is typical to ring triples methods not on seven bells but on eight, with the tenor *covering*: only the seven highest bells permute; the eighth and lowest bell is simply rung last in every row. So likewise with caters, usually rung on ten bells, and other higher odd-bell stages.

Put together, this system gives method names sound that is evocative, musical, and quaint: *Kent Treble Bob Major*, *Grandsire Caters*, *Erin Triples*, *Chartres Delight Royal*, *Percy's Tea Strainer Treble Place Major*, *Titanic Cinques* and so forth.

Slightly modified from Wikipedia
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Method_ringing#Method_names)