Days, Months and Dates

The days and months, how to say and write the date, the shape of the year, and the history of the calendar, from A1 to C2.

A1–C2 · English Vocabulary, Lesson 2

on Monday · a fortnight · a red-letter day

Days and time *A1–A2*

Monday	Tuesday
Wednesday	Thursday
Friday	Saturday
Sunday	the weekend
yesterday	today
tomorrow	a week
a month	a calendar

Capital letters: Monday, not monday

The months *A1–A2*

January	February
March	April
May	June
July	August
September	October
November	December
a year	a birthday

on Monday · on 3 May · in May · at the weekend

Dates and the year *B1–B2*

Writing dates: UK 7/8 = 7 August · US 7/8 = July 8 · 2026-08-07

Before and after: the day before yesterday, the day after tomorrow, Friday week

Two weeks: a fortnight, in a fortnight's time, fortnightly

How often: once a week, twice a month, every other day · daily, weekly, monthly, yearly

The year: the school year, term, half-term, a bank holiday, a long weekend

Deadlines: by Friday (at the latest) · until Friday (all the time up to then)

*Monday's a **bank holiday**, so it's a **long weekend**. Send it **by Friday**.*

A fortnight is 14 days, not 15

Calendars and centuries *C1–C2*

Calendars: Julian, Gregorian, a leap year, a leap day, Old Style / New Style, an equinox

Periods: the 1800s = the nineteenth century, the sixties, the noughties, the turn of the century, fin de siècle

Anniversaries: centenary, bicentenary, quincentenary, millennium (millennia)

Dating: c. 1500, in the late 1700s, 44 BCE, 1066 CE, date a letter to

Idioms: a red-letter day, a month of Sundays, day in day out, have seen better days, salad days

*In Britain, 2 September 1752 was followed by 14 September: an **Old Style** date needs checking.*

the 19th century, never the XIX century

Saying the date

- *What's the date today?*
- *It's the third of May. / May the third.*
- *When's your birthday? It's on 2 May.*
- *See you next week!*

Common mistakes

- ~~in Monday~~ → **on** Monday
- ~~the three of May~~ → the **third** of May
- ~~in next week~~ → **next week**
- ~~after tomorrow~~ → the day **after tomorrow**

Words with a past

- **September**: Latin *septem*, seven
- **February**: Roman *februa*, purification rites
- **millennium**: Latin *mille* + *annus*
- **quotidian**: Latin *quotidie*, every day

My new words

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