

Origins Of Day and Month.

The origins of the names of the days

The names of the days are in some cases derived from Teutonic deities or such as in Romance languages, from Roman deities. The early Romans, around the first century, used Saturday as the first day of the week. As the worshipping of the Sun increased, the Sun's day (Sunday) advanced from position of the second day to the first day of the week (and Saturday became the seventh day).

* **Sunday**

The name comes from the Latin *dies solis*, meaning "sun's day": the name of a pagan Roman holiday. It is also called *Dominica* (Latin), the Day of God. The Romance languages, derived from the ancient Latin language (such as French, Spanish, and Italian), retain the root.

French: *dimanche*; Italian: *domenica*; Spanish: *domingo* German: *Sonntag*; Dutch: *zondag*. (both: 'sun-day')

* **Monday**

The name comes from the Anglo-Saxon *monandaeg*, "the moon's day". This second day was sacred to the goddess of the moon.

French: *lundi*; Italian: *lunedì*. Spanish: *lunes*. (from *Luna*, "Moon") German: *Montag*; Dutch: *maandag*. (both: 'moon-day')

* **Tuesday**

This day was named after the Norse god *Tyr*. The Romans named this day after their war-god *Mars*: *dies Martis*.

French: *mardi*; Italian: *martedì*; Spanish: *martes*. The Germans call *Diensdag* (its meaning - "Assembly Day"), in The Netherlands it is known as *dinsdag*, in Denmark as *tirsdag* and in Sweden *tisdag*.

* **Wednesday**

The day named to honour *Wodan* (*Odin*). The Romans called it *dies Mercurii*, after their god *Mercury*.

French: *mercredi*; Italian: *mercoledì*; Spanish: *miércoles*; German: *Mittwoch*; Dutch: *woensdag*

* **Thursday**

The day named after the Norse god *Thor*. In the Norse languages this day is called *Torsdag*. The Romans named this day *dies Jovis* ("Jove's Day"), after *Jove* or *Jupiter*, their most important god.

French: *jeudi*; Italian: *giovedì*; Spanish: *el jueves*. German: *Donnerstag*; Dutch: *donderdag*. (both "thunder day")

* **Friday**

The day named in honour of the Norse goddess *Frigg*. In the Old High German this day was called *frigedag*. To the Romans this day was sacred to the goddess *Venus*, and was known as *dies veneris*.

French: *vendredi*; Italian: *venerdì*; Spanish: *viernes*. German: *Freitag* ; Dutch: *vrijdag*.

* **Saturday**

This day was called *dies Saturni*, "Saturn's Day", by the ancient Romans in honour of *Saturn*. In Anglo-Saxon: *sater daeg*.

French: *samedi*; Italian: *sabato*; Spanish: *el sábado*. German: *Samstag*; Dutch: *zaterdag*. Sweden: *Lördag*, and in Denmark and Norway *Lørdag* ("washing day").

The origins of the names of the months

Only a few names of the month were derived from Roman deities. Most simply came from the numbers of the months, or, as in two cases, in honour of Roman emperors.

* **January**

Named after the Roman god of beginnings and endings Janus (the month Januarius)

* **February**

The name comes either from the old-Italian god Februus or else from februa, signifying the festivals of purification celebrated in Rome during this month.

* **March**

This is the first month of the Roman year. It is named after the Roman god of war, Mars.

* **April**

Named Aprilis, from aperire, "to open". Possible because it is the month in which the buds begin to open.

* **May**

Third month on the Roman calendar. The name probably came from Maiesta the Roman goddess of honour and reverence.

* **June**

The fourth month was named in honour of Juno. However, the name might also come from iuniores (young men; juniors) as opposed to maiores (grown men; majors) for May, the two months being dedicated to young and old men.

* **July**

It was the month in which Julius Ceasar was born, and named Julius in his honour in 44 BC, the year of his assasination. Also called Quintilis (fifth month).

* **August**

Originally this month was called Sextilis (from sextus, "six"), but the name was later changed in honour of the first of the Roman emperors, Augustus (because several fortunate events of his life occured during this month).

* **September**

The name comes from septem, "seven".

* **October**

The name comes from octo, "eight"

* **November**

The name comes from novem, "nine".

* **December**

The name comes from decem, "ten".