

Origins of the names of the days

The names of the days come from Teutonic deities or 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) became the first day of the week.

Sunday

The name means "sun's day". Old English *Sunnandæg*.

French: *dimanche*; Italian: *domenica*; Spanish: *domingo*

German: *Sonntag*; Dutch: *zondag*. [both "sun day"]

Monday

The name comes from Old English *Mōnandæg*, "moon's day".

French: *lundi*; Italian: *lunedì*. Spanish: *lunes*

German: *Montag*; Dutch: *maandag*.

Tuesday

This day was named after the Norse god Tyr, from Old English *Tīwesdæg*. The Romans named this day after their god of war, Mars: *Marti*.

French: *mardi*; Italian: *martedì*; Spanish: *martes*.

The Germans call it *Dienstag* (meaning "Assembly Day"), in The Netherlands it is known as *dinsdag*, in Denmark *tirsdag* and in Sweden *tisdag*.

Wednesday

The day is named to honor Wodan (Odin), from Old English *Wōdnesdæg*. The Romans called it *Mercurii*, after their god Mercury.

French: *mercredi*; Italian: *mercoledì*; Spanish: *miércoles*.

German: *Mittwoch* (which means "mid-week"); Dutch: *woensdag*.

Thursday

The day is named after the Norse god Thor. Old English *Thuesdæg*.

In the Norse languages it is called *Torsdag*.

French: *jeudi*; Italian: *giovedì*; Spanish: *jueves*.

German: *Donnerstag*; Dutch: *donderdag* (*donner/donder* means "thunder").

Friday

Old English *Frīgedæg*, the day is in honor of the Norse goddess Frigg.

To the Romans, this day was sacred to the goddess Venus, and was known as *Veneris*.

French: *vendredi*; Italian: *venerdì*; Spanish: *viernes*.

German: *Freitag* (which means "free day"); Dutch: *vrijdag*.

Saturday

This day was called *Saturni*, "Saturn's Day," by the ancient Romans in honor of the god Saturn. Old English *Sæterndæg*.

French: *samedi*; Italian: *sabato*; Spanish: *sábado*.

German: *Samstag*; Dutch: *zaterdag*.

Swedish: *Lördag*; and in Danish and Norse: *Lørdag* ("washing day").

Source: https://pantheon.org/miscellaneous/origin_names_days.php

Origins of the names of the months

There were originally only ten months: Martius, Aprilis, Maius, Junius, Quintilis, Sextilis, September, October, November, December.

January

Named after the Roman god of beginnings and endings – Janus. Originally: *Januarius*

February

The name either comes from the Italian god Februus or from “Februa” - the festival of purification celebrated in Rome during this month. Originally: *Februarius*.

March

This is the first month of the Roman year, named after the Roman god of war, Mars. Originally: *Martius*.

April

This is the second month of the Roman year. From “aperire” (to open), possibly because it is the month in which the flowers begin to open. Originally: *Aprilis*.

May

The third month of the Roman year. The name comes from Maiesta, the Roman goddess of honor and reverence. Originally: *Maius*.

June

The fourth month was named after Juno. In Roman mythology, she was the goddess of marriage, the wife of Jupiter and the queen of the gods. Originally: *Junius*.

July

The fifth month was the month in which Julius Caesar was born, and named Julius in his honor in 44 BC, the year of his assassination. Originally: *Quintilis* (=fifth month), but later *Julius*.

August

Originally this month was called *Sextilis* - from sextus (six), but the name was later changed in honor of the Roman emperor, Augustus.

September, October, November, December

The names come from “septem” (seven), “octo” (eight), “novem” (nine) and “decem” (ten).

Source: https://pantheon.org/miscellaneous/origin_names_months.php