# 532.https://stackoverflow.com/questions/70413532/how-to-specify-a-date-when-the-function-will-be-available-for-calling

**T:**How to specify a date when the function will be available for calling?

**Q:**I have not figured out yet how to open NFT minting after specific date. For example, if I deploy my smart contract right now, I want users to be able to mint NFT's starting from 1st January of 2022.  
  
I came across block.timestamp, but I can't figure out a way how to use it.  
  
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Or would it to be better to just deploy the contract on 1st January?

1 **Answer**

**A1:**block.timestamp is a global variable returning the time of the block when the function is executed (by sending a transaction). Or the current time if the function is called (by performing a read-only call).  
  
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pragma solidity ^0.8;contract MyContract { function mint() external { require(block.timestamp >= 1640995200, "Not yet available"); // ... rest of your code }}  
  
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**C1:**Thank you, I got it now! I did came across a question on how do I generate the timestamp for specific human-readable date, but found bunch of converters online when doing a quick google search.

**C2:**@coriden The timestamp (also known as "unix timestamp") is a standardized date format. Its value is the amount of seconds (or milliseconds in some cases) since January 1st, 1970, 00:00:00 UTC. Many programming languages have a way to convert a human readable date to the timestamp (unfortunately, Solidity currently can do that only on a very limited basis - only from a relative expression such as "now + 1 year", but not from an absolute date such as "2021-12-31"). And, as you say, there are many online tools that can convert it as well.