

# Doomsday rule

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(Redirected from Doomsday algorithm)

The **Doomsday rule** or **Doomsday algorithm** is a way of calculating the day of the week of a given date. It provides a perpetual calendar because the Gregorian calendar moves in cycles of 400 years.

This algorithm for mental calculation was devised by John Conway<sup>[1][2]</sup> after drawing inspiration from Lewis Carroll's work on a perpetual calendar algorithm.<sup>[3][4]</sup> It takes advantage of each year having a certain day of the week (the *doomsday*) upon which certain easy-to-remember dates fall; for example, 4/4, 6/6, 8/8, 10/10, 12/12, and the last day of February all occur on the same day of the week in any given year. Applying the Doomsday algorithm involves three steps:

1.

Determine the "anchor day" for the century.
2.

Use the anchor day for the century to calculate the doomsday for the year.
3.

Choose the closest date out of the ones that always fall on the doomsday (e.g. 4/4, 6/6, 8/8), and count the number of days (modulo 7) between that date and the date in question to arrive at the day of the week.

This technique applies to both the Gregorian calendar A.D. and the Julian calendar, although their doomsdays will usually be different days of the week.

Since this algorithm involves treating days of the week like numbers modulo 7, John Conway suggests thinking of the days of the week as "Noneday" or "Sansday" (for Sunday), "Oneday", "Twosday", "Treblesday", "Foursday", "Fiveday", and "Six-a-day".

The algorithm is simple enough for anyone with basic arithmetic ability to do the calculations mentally. Conway can usually give the correct answer in under two seconds. To improve his speed, he practices his calendrical calculations on his computer, which is programmed to quiz him with random dates every time he logs on.<sup>[5]</sup>



John Conway, inventor of the Doomsday algorithm.

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## Doomsdays for some contemporary years [edit]

Doomsday for the current year in the Gregorian calendar (**2015**) is **Saturday**.

For some other contemporary years :

Doomsdays for the Gregorian calendar													
Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	→	1904	1905	1906	1907	→	1908	1909
1910	1911	→	1912	1913	1914	1915	→	1916	1917	1918	1919	→	1920
1921	1922	1923	→	1924	1925	1926	1927	→	1928	1929	1930	1931	→
1932	1933	1934	1935	→	1936	1937	1938	1939	→	1940	1941	1942	1943
→	1944	1945	1946	1947	→	1948	1949	1950	1951	→	1952	1953	1954
1955	→	1956	1957	1958	1959	→	1960	1961	1962	1963	→	1964	1965
1966	1967	→	1968	1969	1970	1971	→	1972	1973	1974	1975	→	1976
1977	1978	1979	→	1980	1981	1982	1983	→	1984	1985	1986	1987	→
1988	1989	1990	1991	→	1992	1993	1994	1995	→	1996	1997	1998	1999
→	2000	2001	2002	2003	→	2004	2005	2006	2007	→	2008	2009	2010
2011	→	2012	2013	2014	2015	→	2016	2017	2018	2019	→	2020	2021
2022	2023	→	2024	2025	2026	2027	→	2028	2029	2030	2031	→	2032
2033	2034	2035	→	2036	2037	2038	2039	→	2040	2041	2042	2043	→
2044	2045	2046	2047	→	2048	2049	2050	2051	→	2052	2053	2054	2055
→	2056	2057	2058	2059	→	2060	2061	2062	2063	→	2064	2065	2066
2067	→	2068	2069	2070	2071	→	2072	2073	2074	2075	→	2076	2077
2078	2079	→	2080	2081	2082	2083	→	2084	2085	2086	2087	→	2088
2089	2090	2091	→	2092	2093	2094	2095	→	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100

**Notes:** Fill in the table horizontally, skipping one column for each leap year. This table cycles every 28 years, except in the Gregorian calendar on years multiple of 100 (like 1900 which is not a leap year) that are not multiple of 400 (like 2000 which is still a leap year). The full cycle is 28 years (1,461 weeks) in the Julian calendar, 400 years (20,871 weeks) in the Gregorian calendar.

## Memorable dates that always land on Doomsday <sup>[edit]</sup>

One can easily find the day of the week of a given calendar date by using a nearby Doomsday as a reference point. To help with this, the following is a list of easy-to-remember dates for each month that always land on the Doomsday.

As mentioned above, the last day of February defines the doomsday. For January, January 3 is a doomsday during common years and January 4 a doomsday during leap years, which can be remembered as "the 3rd during 3 years in 4, and the 4th in the 4th year". For March, one can remember the pseudo-date "March 0", which refers to the day before March 1, i.e. the last day of February.

For the months April through December, the even numbered months are covered by the double dates 4/4, 6/6, 8/8, 10/10, and 12/12, all of which fall on the doomsday. The odd numbered months can be remembered with the mnemonic "I work from 9 to 5 at the 7–11", i.e., 9/5, 7/11, and also 5/9 and 11/7, are all doomsdays.

Month	Memorable date	Month/Day	Mnemonic <sup>[6]</sup>
January	January 3 (common years), January 4 (leap years)	1/3 or 1/4	the 3rd 3 years in 4 and the 4th in the 4th
February	February 28 (common years), February 29 (leap years)	2/28 or 2/29	last day of February
March	"March 0"	3/0	last day of February
April	April 4	4/4	4/4, 6/6, 8/8, 10/10, 12/12
May	May 9	5/9	9-to-5 at 7-11
June	June 6	6/6	4/4, 6/6, 8/8, 10/10, 12/12
July	July 11	7/11	9-to-5 at 7-11
August	August 8	8/8	4/4, 6/6, 8/8, 10/10, 12/12
September	September 5	9/5	9-to-5 at 7-11
October	October 10	10/10	4/4, 6/6, 8/8, 10/10, 12/12
November	November 7	11/7	9-to-5 at 7-11
December	December 12	12/12	4/4, 6/6, 8/8, 10/10, 12/12

Since the Doomsday for a particular year is directly related to weekdays of dates in the period from March through February of the next year, common years and leap years have to be distinguished for January and February of the same year.

### Examples <sup>[edit]</sup>

To find which day of the week [Christmas Day](#) of 2006 was: in the year 2006, Doomsday was Tuesday. Since December 12 is a Doomsday, December 25, being thirteen days afterwards (two weeks less a day), fell on a Monday.

It is useful to note that Christmas Day is always the day before Doomsday ("One off Doomsday"). In addition, July 4 is always on a Doomsday, as is [Halloween](#) (October 31).

To find the day of week that the September 11, 2001 [attacks](#) on the [World Trade Center](#) occurred: the century anchor was Tuesday, and Doomsday for 2001 is one day beyond, which is Wednesday. September 5 was a Doomsday, and September 11, six days later, fell on a Tuesday.

## Finding a year's Doomsday <sup>[edit]</sup>

We first take the anchor day for the century. For the purposes of the Doomsday rule, a century starts with '00 and ends with '99. The following table shows the anchor day of centuries 1800–1899, 1900–1999, 2000–2099 and 2100–2199.

Century	Anchor day	Mnemonic	Index (day of week)
1800–1899	Friday	–	5 (Fiveday)
1900–1999	Wednesday	We-in-dis-day (most living people were born in that century)	3 (Treblesday)
2000–2099	Tuesday	Y-Tue-K or Twos-day (Y2K was at the head of this century)	2 (Twosday)
2100–2199	Sunday	Twenty-one-day is Sunday (2100 is the start of the next century)	0 (Noneday)

Next, we find the year's Doomsday. To accomplish that according to Conway:

- Divide the year's last two digits (call this *y*) by 12 and let *a* be the floor of the quotient.
- Let *b* be the remainder of the same quotient.
- Divide that remainder by 4 and let *c* be the floor of the quotient.
- Let *d* be the sum of the three numbers (*d* = *a* + *b* + *c*). (It is again possible here to divide by seven and take the remainder. This number is equivalent, as it must be, to the sum of the last two digits of the year taken collectively plus the floor of those collective digits divided by four.)
- Count forward the specified number of days (*d* or the remainder of *d*/7) from the anchor day to get the year's Doomsday.

$$\left(\left\lfloor\frac{y}{12}\right\rfloor + y\text{mod}12 + \left\lfloor\frac{y\text{mod}12}{4}\right\rfloor\right)\text{mod}7 + \text{anchor} = \text{Doomsday}$$

For the twentieth-century year 1966, for example:

$$\begin{aligned}\left(\left\lfloor\frac{66}{12}\right\rfloor + 66\text{mod}12 + \left\lfloor\frac{66\text{mod}12}{4}\right\rfloor\right)\text{mod}7 + \text{Wednesday} &= (5 + 6 + 1)\text{mod}7 + \text{Wednesday} \\ &= \text{Monday}\end{aligned}$$

As described in bullet 4, above, this is equivalent to:

$$\begin{aligned}(66 + \left\lfloor\frac{66}{4}\right\rfloor)\text{mod}7 + \text{Wednesday} &= (66 + 16)\text{mod}7 + \text{Wednesday} \\ &= \text{Monday}\end{aligned}$$

So Doomsday in 1966 fell on Monday.

Similarly, Doomsday in 2005 is on a Monday:

$$\left(\left\lfloor\frac{5}{12}\right\rfloor + 5\text{mod}12 + \left\lfloor\frac{5\text{mod}12}{4}\right\rfloor\right)\text{mod}7 + \text{Tuesday} = \text{Monday}$$

Why it works [\[edit\]](#)

The doomsday calculation is effectively calculating the number of days between any given date in the base year and the same date in the current year, then taking the remainder modulo 7. When both dates come after the leap day (if any), the difference is just 365y plus y/4 (rounded down). But 365 equals 52\*7+1, so after taking the remainder we get just

$$(y + \lfloor \frac{y}{4} \rfloor) \bmod 7.$$

This gives a simpler formula if one is comfortable dividing large values of y by both 4 and 7. For example, we can compute  $(66 + \lfloor \frac{66}{4} \rfloor) \bmod 7 = (66 + 16) \bmod 7 = 82 \bmod 7 = 5$ , which gives the same answer as in the example above.

Where 12 comes in is that the pattern of  $(y + \lfloor \frac{y}{4} \rfloor) \bmod 7$  *almost* repeats every 12 years. After 12 years, we get  $(12 + 12/4) \bmod 7 = 15 \bmod 7 = 1$ . If we replace y by y mod 12, we are throwing this extra day away; but adding back in  $\lfloor \frac{y}{12} \rfloor$  compensates for this error, giving the final formula.

The Odd+11 method [\[edit\]](#)

A simpler method for finding the year's doomsday was discovered in 2010 by Chamberlain Fong and Michael K. Walters,<sup>[7]</sup> and described in their paper submitted to the 7th International Congress on Industrial and Applied Mathematics (2011). Called the **Odd+11** method, it has been proven<sup>[7]</sup> equivalent to computing

$$(y + \lfloor \frac{y}{4} \rfloor) \bmod 7.$$

It is well suited to mental calculation, because it requires no division by 4 (or 12), and the procedure is easy to remember because of its repeated use of the "odd+11" rule.

Extending this to get the Doomsday, the procedure is often described as accumulating a running total *T* in six steps, as follows:

1. Let *T* be the year's last two digits.
2. If *T* is odd, add 11.
3. Now let *T* = *T*/2.
4. If *T* is odd, add 11.
5. Now let *T* = 7 - (*T* mod 7).
6. Count forward *T* days from the century's anchor day to get the year's Doomsday.

Applying this method to the year 2005, for example, the steps as outlined would be:

1. *T* = 5
2. *T* = 5+11 = 16 (Added 11 because *T* is odd)
3. *T* = 16/2 = 8
4. *T* = 8 (Do nothing since *T* is even.)
5. *T* = 7 - (8 mod 7) = 7 - 1 = 6
6. Doomsday for 2005 = 6 + Tuesday = Monday

The explicit formula for the odd+11 method is:

$$- \left[ \frac{y + 11(y \bmod 2)}{2} + 11 \left( \frac{y + 11(y \bmod 2)}{2} \bmod 2 \right) \right] \bmod 7.$$

Although this expression looks daunting and complicated, it is actually simple<sup>[7]</sup> because of a [common subexpression](#)  $\frac{y + 11(y \bmod 2)}{2}$  that only needs to be calculated once.

Dominical letter method [\[edit\]](#)

A year's doomsday (DD) can also be determined from a year's [dominical letter](#) (DL).

$$DD = (3 - DL) \bmod 7$$

Note: A = 1, B = 2, ..., G = 0.

For the year 1966 the dominical letter is B, so the doomsday DD = 3 - 2 = 1 = Monday.

Doomsday	Dominical letter
Sunday	C, DC
Monday	B, CB
Tuesday	A, BA
Wednesday	G, AG
Thursday	F, GF
Friday	E, FE
Saturday	D, ED

Finding a century's anchor day [\[edit\]](#)

For the Gregorian calendar:


$$5 \times (c \bmod 4) \bmod 7 + \text{Tuesday} = \text{anchor}.$$

For the Julian calendar:

$$6 \times (c \bmod 7) \bmod 7 + \text{Sunday} = \text{anchor}.$$

The Doomsday Rule						
Century	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
0	2	5	7	4	6	3
Doomsday Month						
January	February	March	April	May	June	
13/01	28/02	07/03	4/04	9/05	6/06	
4/01	3/02	8/03	5/04	10/05	7/06	
10/01	9/02	14/03	11/04	16/05	13/06	
17/01	16/02	21/03	18/04	23/05	20/06	
Doomsday Century						
1200	1201	1202	1203	1204	1205	
1206	1207	1208	1209	1210	1211	
1212	1213	1214	1215	1216	1217	
1218	1219	1220	1221	1222	1223	
1224	1225	1226	1227	1228	1229	
1230	1231	1232	1233	1234	1235	
1236	1237	1238	1239	1240	1241	
1242	1243	1244	1245	1246	1247	
1248	1249	1250	1251	1252	1253	
1254	1255	1256	1257	1258	1259	
1260	1261	1262	1263	1264	1265	
1266	1267	1268	1269	1270	1271	
1272	1273	1274	1275	1276	1277	
1278	1279	1280	1281	1282	1283	
1284	1285	1286	1287	1288	1289	
1290	1291	1292	1293	1294	1295	
1296	1297	1298	1299	1300	1301	
1302	1303	1304	1305	1306	1307	
1308	1309	1310	1311	1312	1313	
1314	1315	1316	1317	1318	1319	
1320	1321	1322	1323	1324	1325	
1326	1327	1328	1329	1330	1331	
1332	1333	1334	1335	1336	1337	
1338	1339	1340	1341	1342	1343	
1344	1345	1346	1347	1348	1349	
1350	1351	1352	1353	1354	1355	
1356	1357	1358	1359	1360	1361	
1362	1363	1364	1365	1366	1367	
1368	1369	1370	1371	1372	1373	
1374	1375	1376	1377	1378	1379	
1380	1381	1382	1383	1384	1385	
1386	1387	1388	1389	1390	1391	
1392	1393	1394	1395	1396	1397	
1398	1399	1400	1401	1402	1403	
1404	1405	1406	1407	1408	1409	
1410	1411	1412	1413	1414	1415	
1416	1417	1418	1419	1420	1421	
1422	1423	1424	1425	1426	1427	
1428	1429	1430	1431	1432	1433	
1434	1435	1436	1437	1438	1439	
1440	1441	1442	1443	1444	1445	
1446	1447	1448	1449	1450	1451	
1452	1453	1454	1455	1456	1457	
1458	1459	1460	1461	1462	1463	
1464	1465	1466	1467	1468	1469	
1470	1471	1472	1473	1474	1475	
1476	1477	1478	1479	1480	1481	
1482	1483	1484	1485	1486	1487	
1488	1489	1490	1491	1492	1493	
1494	1495	1496	1497	1498	1499	
1500	1501	1502	1503	1504	1505	
1506	1507	1508	1509	1510	1511	
1512	1513	1514	1515	1516	1517	
1518	1519	1520	1521	1522	1523	
1524	1525	1526	1527	1528	1529	
1530	1531	1532	1533	1534	1535	
1536	1537	1538	1539	1540	1541	
1542	1543	1544	1545	1546	1547	
1548	1549	1550	1551	1552	1553	
1554	1555	1556	1557	1558	1559	
1560	1561	1562	1563	1564	1565	
1566	1567	1568	1569	1570	1571	
1572	1573	1574	1575	1576	1577	
1578	1579	1580	1581	1582	1583	
1584	1585	1586	1587	1588	1589	
1590	1591	1592	1593	1594	1595	
1596	1597	1598	1599	1600	1601	
1602	1603	1604	1605	1606	1607	
1608	1609	1610	1611	1612	1613	
1614	1615	1616	1617	1618	1619	
1620	1621	1622	1623	1624	1625	
1626	1627	1628	1629	1630	1631	
1632	1633	1634	1635	1636	1637	
1638	1639	1640	1641	1642	1643	
1644	1645	1646	1647	1648	1649	
1650	1651	1652	1653	1654	1655	
1656	1657	1658	1659	1660	1661	
1662	1663	1664	1665	1666	1667	
1668	1669	1670	1671	1672	1673	
1674	1675	1676	1677	1678	1679	
1680	1681	1682	1683	1684	1685	
1686	1687	1688	1689	1690	1691	
1692	1693	1694	1695	1696	1697	
1698	1699	1700	1701	1702	1703	
1704	1705	1706	1707	1708	1709	
1710	1711	1712	1713	1714	1715	
1716	1717	1718	1719	1720	1721	
1722	1723	1724	1725	1726	1727	
1728	1729	1730	1731	1732	1733	
1734	1735	1736	1737	1738	1739	
1740	1741	1742	1743	1744	1745	
1746	1747	1748	1749	1750	1751	
1752	1753	1754	1755	1756	1757	
1758	1759	1760	1761	1762	1763	
1764	1765	1766	1767	1768	1769	
1770	1771	1772	1773	1774	1775	
1776	1777	1778	1779	1780	1781	
1782	1783	1784	1785	1786	1787	
1788	1789	1790	1791	1792	1793	
1794	1795	1796	1797	1798	1799	
1800	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	
1806	1807	1808	1809	1810	1811	
1812	1813	1814	1815	1816	1817	
1818	1819	1820	1821	1822	1823	
1824	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829	
1830	1831	1832	1833	1834	1835	
1836	1837	1838	1839	1840	1841	
1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	
1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	
1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	
1860	1861	1862	1863	1864	1865	
1866	1867	1868	1869	1870	1871	
1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877	
1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	
1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	
1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	
1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	
1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	
1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	
1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	
1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	
1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	
1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	
1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	
1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	
1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	
1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	
1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	
1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	
1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	
1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	
1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	
1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	
1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	
2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	
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2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	
2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	
2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	
2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	
2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	
2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	
2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	
2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	
2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	
2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2	

Doomsday rule



Note:  $c = \lfloor year/100 \rfloor$ .

Overview of all Doomsdays [\[edit\]](#)

Month	Dates	Week numbers *
January (common years)	3, 10, 17, 24, 31	1–5
January (leap years)	4, 11, 18, 25	1–4
February (common years)	7, 14, 21, 28	6–9
February (leap years)	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	5–9
March	7, 14, 21, 28	10–13
April	4, 11, 18, 25	14–17
May	2, 9, 16, 23, 30	18–22
June	6, 13, 20, 27	23–26
July	4, 11, 18, 25	27–30
August	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	31–35
September	5, 12, 19, 26	36–39
October	3, 10, 17, 24, 31	40–44
November	7, 14, 21, 28	45–48
December	5, 12, 19, 26	49–52

\* In leap years the  $n$ th Doomsday is in [ISO week  \$n\$](#) . In common years the day after the  $n$ th Doomsday is in week  $n$ . Thus in a common year the week number on the Doomsday itself is one less if it is a Sunday, i.e., in a [common year starting on Friday](#).

Computer formula for the Doomsday of a year [\[edit\]](#)

For computer use, the following formulas for the Doomsday of a year are convenient.

For the Gregorian calendar:

$$\text{Doomsday} = \text{Tuesday} + y + \left\lfloor \frac{y}{4} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{y}{100} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{y}{400} \right\rfloor = \text{Tuesday} + 5 \times (y \bmod 4) + 4 \times (y \bmod 100) + 6 \times (y \bmod 400)$$

For example, the year 2009 has a doomsday of Saturday under the Gregorian calendar (the currently accepted calendar), since

$$\text{Saturday (6)} \bmod 7 = \text{Tuesday (2)} + 2009 + \left\lfloor \frac{2009}{4} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{2009}{100} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{2009}{400} \right\rfloor$$

As another example, the year 1946 has a doomsday of Thursday, since

$$\text{Thursday (4)} \bmod 7 = \text{Tuesday (2)} + 1946 + \left\lfloor \frac{1946}{4} \right\rfloor - \left\lfloor \frac{1946}{100} \right\rfloor + \left\lfloor \frac{1946}{400} \right\rfloor$$

For the Julian calendar:

$$\text{Doomsday} = \text{Sunday} + y + \left\lfloor \frac{y}{4} \right\rfloor = \text{Sunday} + 5 \times (y \bmod 4) + 3 \times (y \bmod 7)$$

The formulas apply also for the [proleptic Gregorian calendar](#) and the [proleptic Julian calendar](#). They use the [floor function](#) and [astronomical year numbering](#) for years BC.

For comparison, see [the calculation of a Julian day number](#).

400-year cycle of Doomsdays [\[edit\]](#)

Since in the Gregorian calendar there are 146097 days, or exactly 20871 seven-day weeks, in 400 years, the anchor day repeats every four centuries. For example, the anchor day of 1700–1799 is the same as the anchor day of 2100–2199, i.e. Sunday.

The full 400-year cycle of Doomsdays is given in the table to the right. The centuries are for the Gregorian and [proleptic Gregorian calendar](#), unless marked with a J for Julian. The Gregorian leap years are highlighted.

Negative years use [astronomical year numbering](#). Year 25BC is −24, shown in the column of −100J (proleptic Julian) or −100 (proleptic Gregorian), at the row 76.

	-1600J	-1500J	-1400J	-1300J	-1200J	-1100J	-1000J
	-900J	-800J	-700J	-600J	-500J	-400J	-300J
	-200J	-100J	0J	100J	200J	300J	400J
	500J	600J	700J	800J	900J	1000J	1100J
	1200J	1300J	1400J	1500J	1600J	1700J	1800J
	1900J	2000J	2100J	2200J	2300J	2400J	2500J
	2600J	2700J	2800J	2900J	3000J	3100J	3200J
	3300J	3400J	3500J	3600J	3700J	3800J	3900J
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	-1600		-1500		-1400		-1300
Gregorian centuries	-1200		-1100		-1000		-900
	-800		-700		-600		-500
	-400		-300		-200		-100
	0		100		200		300
Years	400		500		600		700
	800		900		1000		1100
	1200		1300		1400		1500
	1600		1700		1800		1900
	2000		2100		2200		2300
	2400		2500		2600		2700
	2800		2900		3000		3100
	3200		3300		3400		3500
	3600		3700		3800		3900
	00 28 56 84	Tue.	Mon.	Sun.	Sat.	Fri.	Thu.
	01 29 57 85	Wed.	Tue.	Mon.	Sun.	Sat.	Fri.
	02 30 58 86	Thu.	Wed.	Tue.	Mon.	Sun.	Sat.

<b>03 31 59 87</b>	Fri.	Thu.	Wed.	Tue.	Mon.	Sun.	Sat.
<b>04 32 60 88</b>	Sun.	Sat.	Fri.	Thu.	Wed.	Tue.	Mon.
<b>05 33 61 89</b>	Mon.	Sun.	Sat.	Fri.	Thu.	Wed.	Tue.
<b>06 34 62 90</b>	Tue.	Mon.	Sun.	Sat.	Fri.	Thu.	Wed.
<b>07 35 63 91</b>	Wed.	Tue.	Mon.	Sun.	Sat.	Fri.	Thu.
<b>08 36 64 92</b>	Fri.	Thu.	Wed.	Tue.	Mon.	Sun.	Sat.
<b>09 37 65 93</b>	Sat.	Fri.	Thu.	Wed.	Tue.	Mon.	Sun.
<b>10 38 66 94</b>	Sun.	Sat.	Fri.	Thu.	Wed.	Tue.	Mon.
<b>11 39 67 95</b>	Mon.	Sun.	Sat.	Fri.	Thu.	Wed.	Tue.
<b>12 40 68 96</b>	Wed.	Tue.	Mon.	Sun.	Sat.	Fri.	Thu.
<b>13 41 69 97</b>	Thu.	Wed.	Tue.	Mon.	Sun.	Sat.	Fri.
<b>14 42 70 98</b>	Fri.	Thu.	Wed.	Tue.	Mon.	Sun.	Sat.
<b>15 43 71 99</b>	Sat.	Fri.	Thu.	Wed.	Tue.	Mon.	Sun.
<b>16 44 72</b>	Mon.	Sun.	Sat.	Fri.	Thu.	Wed.	Tue.
<b>17 45 73</b>	Tue.	Mon.	Sun.	Sat.	Fri.	Thu.	Wed.
<b>18 46 74</b>	Wed.	Tue.	Mon.	Sun.	Sat.	Fri.	Thu.
<b>19 47 75</b>	Thu.	Wed.	Tue.	Mon.	Sun.	Sat.	Fri.
<b>20 48 76</b>	Sat.	Fri.	Thu.	Wed.	Tue.	Mon.	Sun.
<b>21 49 77</b>	Sun.	Sat.	Fri.	Thu.	Wed.	Tue.	Mon.
<b>22 50 78</b>	Mon.	Sun.	Sat.	Fri.	Thu.	Wed.	Tue.
<b>23 51 79</b>	Tue.	Mon.	Sun.	Sat.	Fri.	Thu.	Wed.
<b>24 52 80</b>	Thu.	Wed.	Tue.	Mon.	Sun.	Sat.	Fri.
<b>25 53 81</b>	Fri.	Thu.	Wed.	Tue.	Mon.	Sun.	Sat.
<b>26 54 82</b>	Sat.	Fri.	Thu.	Wed.	Tue.	Mon.	Sun.
<b>27 55 83</b>	Sun.	Sat.	Fri.	Thu.	Wed.	Tue.	Mon.

Frequency of Gregorian Doomsday in the 400-year cycle per weekday and year type

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total
<b>Non-leap years</b>	43	43	43	43	44	43	44	<b>303</b>
<b>Leap years</b>	13	15	13	15	13	14	14	<b>97</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>400</b>

A leap year with Monday as Doomsday means that Sunday is one of 97 days skipped in the 497-day sequence. Thus the total number of years with Sunday as Doomsday is 71 minus the number of leap years with Monday as Doomsday, etc. Since Monday as Doomsday is skipped across 29 February 2000 and the pattern of leap days is symmetric about that leap day, the frequencies of Doomsdays per weekday (adding common and leap years) are symmetric about Monday. The frequencies of Doomsdays of leap years per weekday are symmetric about the Doomsday of 2000, Tuesday.

The frequency of a particular date being on a particular weekday can easily be derived from the above (for a date from 1 January – 28 February, relate it to the Doomsday of the previous year).

For example, 28 February is one day after Doomsday of the previous year, so it is 58 times each on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday, etc. 29 February is Doomsday of a leap year, so it is 15 times each on Monday and Wednesday, etc.

28-year cycle [\[edit\]](#)

Regarding the frequency of Doomsdays in a Julian 28-year cycle, there are 1 leap year and 3 common years for every weekday, the latter 6, 17 and 23 years after the former (so with intervals of 6, 11, 6, and 5 years; not evenly distributed because after 12 years the day is skipped in the sequence of Doomsdays).<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup> The same cycle applies for any given date from 1 March falling on a particular weekday.

For any given date up to 28 February falling on a particular weekday, the 3 common years are 5, 11, and 22 years after the leap year, so with intervals of 5, 6, 11, and 6 years. Thus the cycle is the same, but with the 5-year interval after instead of before the leap year.

Thus, for any date except 29 February, the intervals between common years falling on a particular weekday are 6, 11, 11. See e.g. at the bottom of the page [Common year starting on Monday](#) the years in the range 1906–2091.

For 29 February falling on a particular weekday, there is just one in every 28 years, and it is of course a leap year.

Julian calendar [\[edit\]](#)

The [Gregorian calendar](#) accurately lines up with astronomical events such as [solstices](#). In 1582 this modification of the [Julian calendar](#) was first instituted. In order to correct for calendar drift, 10 days were skipped, so Doomsday moved back 10 days (i.e. 3 days): Thursday 4 October (Julian, Doomsday is Wednesday) was followed by Friday 15 October (Gregorian, Doomsday is Sunday). The table includes Julian calendar years, but the algorithm is for the Gregorian and proleptic Gregorian calendar only.

Note that the Gregorian calendar was not adopted simultaneously in all countries, so for many centuries, different regions used different dates for the same day.

Full examples [\[edit\]](#)

Example 1 (1985) [\[edit\]](#)

Suppose you want to know the day of the week of September 18, 1985. You begin with the century's anchor day, Wednesday. To this, we'll add three things, called *a*, *b*, and *c* above:

- a* is the floor of 85/12, which is 7.
- b* is 85 mod 12, which is 1.
- c* is the floor of *b*/4, which is 0.

This yields 8. In modulo 7 arithmetic, 8 is congruent to 1. Because the century's anchor day is Wednesday (index 3), and  $3 + 1 = 4$ , Doomsday in 1985 was Thursday (index 4). We now compare September 18 to a nearby Doomsday, September 5. We see that the 18th is 13 past a Doomsday. In modulo 7 arithmetic, 13 is congruent to 6 or, more succinctly,  $-1$ . Thus, we take one away from the Doomsday, Thursday, to find that September 18, 1985 was a Wednesday.

**Example 2 (other centuries)** [\[edit\]](#)

Suppose that you want to find the day of week that the [American Civil War](#) broke out at [Fort Sumter](#), which was April 12, 1861. The anchor day for the century was 99 days after Thursday, or, in other words, Friday (calculated as  $(18+1)*5+\text{floor}(18/4)$ ; or just look at the chart, above, which lists the century's anchor days). The digits 61 gave a displacement of six days so Doomsday was Thursday. Therefore, April 4 was Thursday so April 12, eight days later, was a Friday.

**See also** [\[edit\]](#)

- [Mon – Tue – Wed – Thu – Fri – Sat – Sun](#) – common years with the given Doomsday
- [Mon – Tue – Wed – Thu – Fri – Sat – Sun](#) – leap years with the given Doomsday
- [Ordinal date](#)
- [Computus](#) – Gauss algorithm for Easter date calculation
- [Zeller's congruence](#) – An algorithm (1882) to calculate the day of the week for any Julian or Gregorian calendar date.
- [Mental calculation](#)

**References** [\[edit\]](#)

- ↑ John Horton Conway, "Tomorrow is the Day After Doomsday", *Eureka*, volume 36, pages 28–31, October 1973.
- ↑ Richard Guy, John Horton Conway, Elwyn Berlekamp : "Winning Ways: For Your Mathematical Plays, Volume. 2: Games in Particular", pages 795–797, Academic Press, London, 1982, [ISBN 0-12-091102-7](#).
- ↑ Lewis Carroll, "To Find the Day of the Week for Any Given Date", *Nature*, March 31, 1887.
- ↑ Martin Gardner, "The Universe in a Handkerchief: Lewis Carroll's Mathematical Recreations, Games, Puzzles, and Word Plays", pages 24–26, Springer-Verlag, 1996
- ↑ Alpert, Mark. "Not Just Fun and Games", *Scientific American*, April, 1999.
- ↑ "[Doomsday Algorithm](#)" [↗](#). rudy.ca. Retrieved 20 June 2015.
- ↑  <sup>a</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> <sup>c</sup> Chamberlain Fong, Michael K. Walters: "[Methods for Accelerating Conway's Doomsday Algorithm \(part 2\)](#)" [↗](#), 7th International Congress on Industrial and Applied Mathematics (2011)

**External links** [\[edit\]](#)

- [Encyclopedia of Weekday Calculation by Hans-Christian Solka, 2010](#) [↗](#)
- [Doomsday calculator that also "shows all work"](#) [↗](#)
- [World records for mentally calculating the day of the week in the Gregorian Calendar](#) [↗](#)
- [What is the day of the week, given any date?](#) [↗](#)
- [Doomsday Algorithm](#) [↗](#)
- [Finding the Day of the Week](#) [↗](#)
- [Poem explaining the Doomsday rule](#) [↗](#) at the [Wayback Machine](#) (archived October 18, 2006)



Categories: [Gregorian calendar](#) | [Julian calendar](#) | [Calendar algorithms](#) | [1973 introductions](#)