👑 **GOV.UK** Design System

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Components

Date input

Use the date input component to help users enter a memorable date or one they can easily look up.

Open this example in a new tab (/components/date-input/default/index.html)

When was your passport issued?

For example, 12 11 2007

Day   Month   Year

[   ]   [   ]   [   ]

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HTML	Nunjucks

When to use this component

Use the date input component when you're asking users for a date they'll already know, or can look up without using a calendar.

When not to use this component

Do not use the date input component if users are unlikely to know the exact date of the event you're asking about.

Read more about how to ask users for dates.

How it works

The date input component consists of 3 fields to let users enter a day, month and year.

The 3 date fields are grouped together in a `<fieldset>` with a `<legend>` that describes them, as shown in the examples on this page. This is usually a question, like 'What is your date of birth?'.

If you're asking one question per page, you can set the contents of the `<legend>` as the page heading. This is good practice as it means that users of screen readers will only hear the contents once.

Read more about why and how to set legends as headings.

Make sure that any example dates you use in hint text are valid for the question being asked.

There are 2 ways to use the date input component. You can use HTML or, if you're using Nunjucks (https://mozilla.github.io/nunjucks/) or the GOV.UK Prototype Kit (https://govuk-prototype-kit.herokuapp.com), you can use the Nunjucks macro.

Open this example in a new tab (/components/date-input/default/index.html)

When was your passport issued?

For example, 12 11 2007

Day   Month   Year

HTML   Nunjucks

Never automatically tab users between the fields of the date input because this can be confusing and may clash with normal keyboard controls.

If you're asking more than one question on the page

If you're asking more than one question on the page, do not set the contents of the `<legend>` as the page heading. Read more about [asking multiple questions on question pages](.).

[Open this example in a new tab (/components/date-input/without-heading/index.html)](.)

When was your passport issued?
For example, 12 11 2007

Day

Month

Year

[HTML](.)   [Nunjucks](.)

Use the autocomplete attribute for a date of birth

Use the `autocomplete` attribute on the date input component when you're asking for a date of birth. This lets browsers autofill the information on a user's behalf if they've entered it previously.

To do this, set the `autocomplete` attribute on the 3 fields to `bday-day`, `bday-month` and `bday-year`. See how to do this in the HTML and Nunjucks tabs in the following example.

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[Open this example in a new tab (/components/date-input/date-of-birth/index.html)](.)

What is your date of birth?

For example, 31 3 1980

Day   Month   Year

HTML   [Nunjucks](#)

Copy code

```html
<div class="govuk-form-group">
  <fieldset class="govuk-fieldset" role="group" aria-describe
    <legend class="govuk-fieldset__legend govuk-fieldset__leg
      <h1 class="govuk-fieldset__heading">
        What is your date of birth?
      </h1>
    </legend>
    <div id="dob-hint" class="govuk-hint">
      For example, 31 3 1980
    </div>
    <div class="govuk-date-input" id="dob">
      <div class="govuk-date-input__item">
        <div class="govuk-form-group">
          <label class="govuk-label govuk-date-input__label"
            Day
          </label>
```

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```
      <input class="govuk-input govuk-date-input__input g
    </div>
    <div class="govuk-date-input__item">
      <div class="govuk-form-group">
        <label class="govuk-label govuk-date-input__label"
          Month
        </label>
        <input class="govuk-input govuk-date-input__input g
      </div>
    <div class="govuk-date-input__item">
      <div class="govuk-form-group">
        <label class="govuk-label govuk-date-input__label"
          Year
        </label>
        <input class="govuk-input govuk-date-input__input g
      </div>
    </div>
  </div>

  </fieldset>
</div>
```

If you are working in production you'll need to do this to meet [WCAG 2.1 Level AA
(https://www.w3.org/WAI/WCAG21/Understanding/identify-input-purpose.html)](https://www.w3.org/WAI/WCAG21/Understanding/identify-input-purpose.html).

You will not normally need to use the `autocomplete` attribute in prototypes, as users will not generally be using their own devices.

Error messages

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If you're highlighting the whole date, style all the fields like this:

Open this example in a new tab (/components/date-input/error/index.html)

When was your passport issued?

For example, 12 11 2007

The date your passport was issued must be in the past

Day

6

Month

3

Year

2076

HTML   Nunjucks

If you're highlighting just one field - either the day, month or year - only style the field that has an error. The error message must say which field has an error, like this:

Open this example in a new tab (/components/date-input/error-single/index.html)

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When was your passport issued?

For example, 27 3 2007

The date your passport was issued must include a year

Day

Month

Year

| 6 | | 3 | | | |

HTML   Nunjucks

Make sure errors follow the guidance in error message (/components/error-message/) and have specific error messages for specific error states.

If there's more than one error, show the highest priority error message. In order of priority, show error messages about:

- missing or incomplete information
- information that cannot be correct (for example, the number '13' in the month field)
- information that fails validation for another reason

If nothing is entered

Highlight the date input as a whole.

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Say 'Enter [whatever it is]'. For example, 'Enter your date of birth'.

If the date is incomplete

Highlight the day, month or year field where the information is missing. If more than one field is missing information, highlight the date input as a whole.

Say '[whatever it is] must include a [whatever is missing]'.

For example, 'Date of birth must include a month' or 'Date of birth must include a day and month'.

If the date entered cannot be correct

For example, '13' in the month field cannot be correct.

Highlight the day, month or year field with the incorrect information. Or highlight the date as a whole if there's incorrect information in more than one field, or it's not clear which field is incorrect.

Say '[Whatever it is] must be a real date'. For example, 'Date of birth must be a real date'.

If the date is in the future when it needs to be in the past

Highlight the date input as a whole.

Say '[whatever it is] must be in the past'. For example, 'Date of birth must be in the past'.

If the date is in the future when it needs to be today or in the past

Highlight the date input as a whole.

Say '[whatever it is] must be today or in the past'. For example, 'Date of birth must be today or in the past'.

If the date is in the past when it needs to be in the future

Highlight the date input as a whole.

Say '[whatever it is] must be in the future'. For example, 'The date your course ends must be in the future'.

If the date is in the past when it needs to be today or in the future

Highlight the date input as a whole.

Say '[whatever it is] must be today or in the future'. For example, 'The date your course ends must be today or in the future'.

If the date must be the same as or after another date

Highlight the date input as a whole.

Say '[whatever it is] must be the same as or after [date and optional description]'. For example, 'The date your course ends must be the same as or after 1 September 2017 when you started the course'.

If the date must be after another date

Highlight the date input as a whole.

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Say '[whatever it is] must be after [date and optional description]'. For example, 'The day your course ends must be after 1 September 2017'.

If the date must be the same as or before another date

Highlight the date input as a whole.

Say '[whatever it is] must be the same as or before [date and optional description]'. For example, 'The date of Gordon's last exam must be the same as or before 31 August 2017 when they left school'.

If the date must be before another date

Highlight the date input as a whole.

Say '[whatever it is] must be before [date and optional description]'. For example, 'The date of Gordon's last exam must be the same as or before 31 August 2017'.

If the date must be between two dates

Highlight the date input as a whole.

Say '[whatever it is] must be between [date] and [date and optional description]'. For example, 'The date your contract started must be between 1 September 2017 and 30 September 2017 when you were self-employed'.

Research on this component

More research is needed to determine the extent to which users struggle to enter months as numbers, and whether allowing them to enter months as text is helpful.

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Help improve this page

To help make sure that this page is useful, relevant and up to date, you can:

- share your research or feedback on GitHub (https://github.com/alphagov/govuk-design-system-backlog/issues/42)
- propose a change (https://github.com/alphagov/govuk-design-system/edit/main/src/components/date-input/index.md.njk) – read more about how to propose changes in GitHub (/community/propose-a-content-change-using-github/)

Need help?

If you've got a question about the GOV.UK Design System, contact the team (/get-in-touch/).

Related resources

Government Design Principles

GOV.UK Service Manual

Accessibility   Sitemap   Privacy

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