

NOMEN _____

DIES _____

Ecce Romani Chapter 36 Grammar Roman Dates

Days of the week

Romans did not have days of the week like we do. They did not have Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday . . . Instead the Romans had day markers, and reckoned time using those markers.

Kalens (Kalendae, Kalendarum f. pl) – 1st of the month

Nones (Nonae, Nonarum f. pl) – usually the 5th OR 7th of March, May, July and October

Ides (Idūs, Iduum f. pl) – usually the 13th OR 15th of March, May, July and October

The Romans used the ablative case (Ablative Time When) to indicate the date on one of these particular days.

Eg: Kalendīs Aprilibus-- on April 1st Nonīs Maiīs – on May 7th Idibus Septembribus – on Sept. 13th

The Romans used the word **pridie** + the accusative case to indicate a day before these day markers.

Eg: pridie Kalendas Apriles – the day before the April Kalens, March 31st

pridie Idūs Martias – the day before the March Ides, March 14th

For all other dates, the Romans used a phrase beginning with **ante diem** + date in the accusative. Romans dating is inclusive, which means the Romans counted the particular day and then counted backwards. Romans always reckoned the date before, never after.

Eg: ante diem iv Kalendas Septembres – on the fourth day before the September Kalens– August 29th

Ante diem iii Nonas Februarias – on the third day before the February Nones—Feb. 3rd

Often the date was abbreviated. Eg: a.d. iv Id Feb. – ante diem iv Idūs Februarias—Feb. 10th

Here are the Latin names of the months. You'll notice that for dating, the adjectival form is used.

Ianuarius, a, um

Februarius, a, um

Martius, a, um

Aprilis, Aprilis, Aprile

Maius, a, um

Iunius, a, um

Iulius, a, um

Augustus, a, um

September, Septembris, Septembre

October, Octobris, Octobre

November, Novembris, Novembre

December, Decembris, Decembre

When is April 7th? Start with the next day marker, the Ides, which would fall on the 13th of April. Starting with and including the 13th, you count back. So April 7th would be 7 days before the Ides—a.d. vii Idūs Apriles

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
APRIL 2018						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

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As for years, the Romans did two things. Romans either designated years starting from the founding of the city: *ab urbe conditā*, literally *from the founding of the city*. Often this is abbreviated to A.U.C. That corresponds to our 753BC.

To figure out a Roman date using our system:

- if the AUC date is less than 753, subtract the number from 754 (remember the Romans were inclusive) and you will get the BC date.
Eg: Cicero was elected consul in 691 AUC. $754 - 691 = 63\text{BC}$
- if the AUC date is greater to 754, subtract the number from 753 and you'll get the AD date.
Eg. Mt. Vesuvius erupts in 832 AUC. $832 - 753 = 79\text{AD}$

To convert a year to the Roman AUC time:

- If the year is BC, subtract it from 754; Eg: $754 - 31$ (Battle of Actium) = 723 AUC
- If the year is AD, add it to 753; $753 + 80$ (Year of our story) = 833 AUC

From the Republic onwards, Romans also reckoned years by the names of the consuls, the chief magistrates elected annually. The ablative case is used: **Antoniō et Cicerone consulibus** – *when Antonius and Cicero were consuls*, ie 63BC