

Day I was born

Did you know that there are people who are known as Calendrical Counters who can immediately tell you the day of the week on which you were born if you give them your date of birth! No-one is really sure how they do it. However, we can find the day of our birth by using this process – it was invented by a man called Zeller in the 19th century but it was based on a method devised by a very famous mathematician called Gauss who was born in 1777.

Follow these seven instructions:

1. Write the date in the month you were born, e.g. 30th.
2. Use this table to find and then add your month number. So if you were born in December, you add 4. This is your total so far.

Month Number

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	2	2	5	0	3	5	1	4	6	2	4

3. Use this table to add the number for your decade. So if you were born in 2005 you add 0 to your total so far.

Decade Number

1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
2	0	6	4	3	1	0	5

4. Now add the units digit of the year you were born. So if you were born in 2005, you add 5 to your total.
5. Now look at this table. You have to find the right number depending on whether you were born in an even numbered decade or an odd numbered decade, and also the units digit of your year, e.g. for 2005 it is an even decade and the units is 5, so we add 1 to our total.

30th December 2005
$30 + 4 = 34$
$34 + 0 = 34$
$34 + 5 = 39$
$39 + 1 = 40$
$40 \div 7 = 5 \text{ remainder } 5$

Leap Year Number

Units digit year	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Decade number is even	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	2
Decade number is odd	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2

6. Finally divide by 7 and write down the remainder.
7. Read off your day on the Day Table.

Day Table

0	1	2	3	4	5	6
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday