

# Renaming the Days of the Week

by

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Here in the United States of America, the story of the names of our days, as with so many things, begins with the ancient Greeks.

The *Theon hemerai* (days of the gods) were named after the sun, moon, Ares, Hermes, Zeus, Aphrodite, and Cronus. The Romans took these names and substituted some of their own gods, so that the days were then sun, moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, and Saturn.

Many countries still use names for their days based on the Roman names. For example, the Spanish Martes (Mars), Miércoles (Mercury), etc.

As the Roman Empire spread, so did the Roman calendar. The Germanic peoples adopted the calendar, but changed some of the names to their gods. This is where we get the day names that became our U.S. names: Tiw (or Tyr), Woden (or Odin), Thunor (or Thor), and Frige (or Freya). The days named for the sun, moon, and Saturn remained unchanged.

[*Shameless plug*: I sell "days of the week" merchandise in my [Cafepress store](#).]

Given the popularity of the Thor movies, perhaps this is not a good time to discuss changing the names of the week. But since I don't really expect the names to change anytime in the next thousand years or more, I'll forge ahead.

All of the days (except Saturday) are two syllables, assuming you pronounce Wednesday "Wendsday". So let's try to keep the new names to two or three syllables.

Most calendars are either lunar or solar based. So let's leave Sunday and Monday alone, unless you think Moonday should be explicitly named.

The rest of the days, however, could use some updating.

Since the first two days of the week are named after astronomical objects, what about continuing that strategy? Well, the other planets are named for ancient gods, so maybe not. Although names like Cometday and Novaday could be considered.

Or what about naming the days for people who were instrumental in the creation of the calendar used in the USA? Let's step backward through history: the Gregorian calendar was named for Pope Gregory XIII, the Julian calendar for Julius Caesar, the Roman calendar for Romulus, and the Hellenic calendars for -- I don't know. So that would give us Gregorday, Juliday (or Julesday?), Romday, and Hellenday.

Of course, the literal minded among us might prefer Oneday, Twoday, Threeday....

And if I was naming the days solely for me, I would consider Beerday, Wineday, Rumday, Vodkaday, Whiskyday, Ginday, and Aspirinday.

But to me, the best option would be to name the remaining days for permanent (or mostly permanent) features of our home. Let's start with the basics: water, air, and earth. If we go with that, that just leaves two more, so let's name those after plants and animals.

This gives us a revised week of:

Sunday

Monday (or Moonday)

Seaday

Windsday

Terraday

Floraday

Faunaday

Or, we could just declare that every day of the week will henceforth be known as Baconday.