



Days and Months in Different Languages Around the World

KS2 MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Ages 9-12 ⌚ 3 min read

Why Days and Months Have Different Names

Have you ever wondered why we call **Monday** by that name? In **French**, it's **lundi**, but in **Spanish** it's **lunes**. Every language around the world has its own special words for the **days of the week** and **months of the year**. Learning these words is one of the first things people do when they study a new language!

The cool part is that many languages share similar roots. This is because they all come from ancient **Latin** and **Roman** history. The **Romans** named days after their gods, which is why so many names sound similar across different languages.

Think of it like how families share last names — all the Romance languages (French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese) are like cousins, so their day and month names are related to each other!

Days of the Week in Different Languages

Let's look at **French** days first. **Monday** is **lundi**, **Tuesday** is **mardi**, **Wednesday** is **mercredi**, **Thursday** is **jeudi**, **Friday** is **vendredi**, **Saturday** is **samedi**, and **Sunday** is **dimanche**.

In **Spanish**, the names are slightly different: **lunes**, **martes**, **miércoles**, **jueves**, **viernes**, **sábado**, and **domingo**. Notice how **lunes** and **lundi** both start with 'l' — that's because they both come from the **Latin** word for moon!

In **German**, the days are: **Montag**, **Dienstag**, **Mittwoch**, **Donnerstag**, **Freitag**, **Samstag**, and **Sonntag**. German names are a bit different because German comes from a different language family.

Months of the Year

The **months** are easier to learn because they're almost the same in many languages! **January** is **janvier** in French and **enero** in Spanish. **February** becomes **février** and

febrero. This pattern continues throughout the year because the **Romans** created a calendar that the whole world uses.

Think of it like wearing a school uniform — even though everyone speaks differently, they all wear the same uniform, so months are kind of the 'uniform' of calendars everywhere!

Why Learning This Matters

When you travel to another country or meet someone who speaks a different language, knowing the **days and months** helps you understand when things are happening. It's one of the most useful things to learn early on, and it shows you how languages are connected through **history** and **culture**.