

Origins of Weekday Names

Sun	Moon	Mars	Mercury	Jupiter	Venus	Saturn
Latin dies Solis	dies Lunae	dies Martis	dies Mercurii	dies Jovis	dies Venēris	dies Saturni
Spanish domingo	lunes	martes	miércoles	jueves	viernes	sábado
English Sunday	Monday	Tuesday Tiw's daeg	Wednesday Wōd daeg	Thursday Thor's daeg	Friday Frigga's daeg	Sabbath or Saturday
Babylon Shamash	Sin	Nergal	Nabu	Marduk	Ishtar	Ninurta

The Latin reading is “day of” and then the name of the god . . . “day of the Sun, etc.” In Spanish we find that Saturday is called sabbado which comes from *Sabbata Dies* (Day of the Sabbath). The Spanish name for Sunday indicates the high priority they place on the day — to them, it has “dominion” over all the other days. In our English naming we take the name of the Norse gods for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Friday in English is named after the Anglo-Saxon goddess Frigga. Tuesday is “Tiw’s day” honoring Tiw (Norse *Týr*) a one-handed god associated with single combat and pledges in Norse mythology. For Wednesday (Woeden’s day; *Wōdnesdæg*) or the god Odin who corresponded to the Latin god Mercury; Thursday (Thor’s day) that corresponded to the Latin god Jupiter that was the chief god, who seized and maintained his power on the basis of his thunderbolt; and Friday (Frigg’s day), who was a goddess and corresponded to the Latin goddess called Venus. The Babylonians worshiped a moon goddess named “Sin”; Nabu was their god of war, hence their kings’ names often included that god’s name, such as Nebu-chadnezzar and Nabo-nidus; the god Marduk was accompanied by a snake/dragon . Those who kept to the Bible avoided association with astrology and did not use these pagan names for the days of the week, but rather numbered them in their relation to the seventh-day Sabbath. So it was first day of the Sabbath (for Sunday), second day of the Sabbath (for Monday), etc. This numbering was commonly used until the late 1800s.