

DAYS OF THE WEEK

(Which seven objects move among the backdrop of fixed stars?)

Although the official calendars of the ancient Roman Republic don't show the days of the week, by the early imperial period, Romans used 7 gods' names for the days of the week, in practice. The Latin term for the days of the week is *dies hebdomadis*. This is related to the Greek word for 7, *hepta*. The 7 gods named are Saturn, Sol, Luna (Moon), Mars, Mercury, Jove (Jupiter), and Venus.

- dies Solis
- dies Lunae
- dies Martis
- dies Mercurii
- dies Iovis
- dies Veneris
- dies Saturnis

Below is a table showing the Latin name for the day of the week followed by the name in French, Spanish, and Italian, and following the convention in Italy, etc., of naming Monday first. You'll notice that the name for Sunday is not connected with the Sun god, but is related to the word for Lord, and Saturn's day refers to a sabbath in the Romance language names for the days of the week, although English uses the Roman god's name.

Latin	French	Spanish	Italian	English
dies lunae	Lundi	lunes	lunedì	Monday
dies Martis	Mardi	martes	martedì	Tuesday
dies Mercurii	Mercredi	miércoles	mercoledì	Wednesday
dies Iovis	Jeudi	jueves	giovedì	Thursday
dies Veneris	Vendredi	viernes	venerdì	Friday
dies Saturni	Samedi	sábado	sabato	Saturday
dies solis	Dimanche	domingo	domenica	Sunday