

ASKING ABOUT Days and Dates

Warm-Up

Work with your class to brainstorm lots of different English words and phrases related to days and dates. Think of **days of the week**, **months of the year**, and English words and phrases like **tomorrow** and **last week**.



1. Dialogues

Read the dialogues, and practice with a partner. Then try changing the words in bold to other days and dates.

A. When is your birthday?

- A: When is your birthday?
 B: My birthday is **on September 5th**.
 When is yours?
 A: Mine is **on Friday**.
 B: **This Friday**?
 A: Yes, on July 15th.
 B: That's my dad's birthday!
 A: I thought your dad's birthday was **in the winter**.
 B: No. My mom's birthday is **on January 1st**.
 A: Oh, her birthday is **on New Year's Day**. Fun!

B. When can we meet?

- A: When can we meet for coffee?
 B: Are you available **on Tuesday**?
 A: Do you mean **this Tuesday** or **next Tuesday**?
 B: Oh, I guess Tuesday **is tomorrow**.
 A: Yes, and I'm working **tomorrow**. How about **a week from tomorrow**?
 B: I'm working **next Tuesday**.
 A: Hmm. Are you available **on Wednesday evenings**?
 B: Sure! Let's meet **tomorrow evening**.
 A: It's a date!

C. When's the due date?

- A: When is your sister's baby due?
 B: She's due **in February**.
 A: Really? When in February?
 B: Sometime in **mid-February**. I think she's due on the 12th.
 A: The 12th. That's **a Saturday**.
 B: How do you know it's **a Saturday**?
 A: I just know **Valentine's Day is on a Monday**.
 B: Oh, are you doing something special **this Valentine's Day**?
 A: No, but we're going skiing **the weekend before**.

2. Time Expressions for Days and Dates

There are a number of words and expressions that you can use to explain which day you are talking about. Learn the proper spelling of the English days, months, and seasons. You also need to learn which prepositions of time go with each time expression.

A. Seasons, Days, and Months

SEASONS

- winter
- spring
- summer
- fall / autumn

DAYS

- Sunday
- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday
- Friday
- Saturday

MONTHS

- January
- February
- March
- April
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- October
- November
- December

B. Useful Time Expressions (Days and Dates)

FUTURE

- tomorrow
- the day after tomorrow
- three days from now
- next week
- in a few days
- this Tuesday (upcoming)
- this weekend (upcoming)
- next weekend (after this one)
- in two weeks' time
- mid-month
- early next month
- next year

PRESENT

- today
- right now
- this week
- this year

PAST

- yesterday
- the day before yesterday
- four days ago
- a few years ago
- last week

OTHER

- on Wednesdays
- on the weekend*
- every Wednesday
- every other month

*British English: "at the weekend"

C. Prepositions of Time (Days and Dates)

For specific dates or days, we use "on":

- My birthday is on September 7th.
- I'll be there on Monday.

For months (without specific days), we use "in":

- My birthday is in September.

For seasons, we use "in the":

- I was born in the fall.

We don't use "on" or "in" with time expressions that include *this*, *next*, *last*, or *every*:

- I go swimming every Monday.
- Sarah saw her sister last Tuesday.
- I'll see you next month.

3. Sentence Building

A. Matching

Match the dialogues and practice them with a partner.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>_____ 1. When is Halloween this year?</p> <p>_____ 2. Is your birthday in the summer?</p> <p>_____ 3. When is Lizzie's baby due?</p> <p>_____ 4. When is the deadline for your project?</p> <p>_____ 5. What's the date today?</p> | <p>a) She's due in mid-June.</p> <p>b) Today is Tuesday, the 27th of June.</p> <p>c) Halloween is on a Thursday this year.</p> <p>d) No, my birthday is in the springtime.</p> <p>e) The deadline is early next week.</p> |
|---|---|

B. Complete the Dialogues

Complete the responses in the following dialogues. Be sure to use complete sentences. Practice the completed dialogues with a partner.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. A: Is your book coming out this year? | B: _____ |
| 2. A: What day is New Year's Eve on? | B: _____ |
| 3. A: When is your sister coming to town? | B: _____ |
| 4. A: When is it supposed to snow? | B: _____ |
| 5. A: When is your birthday? | B: _____ |

4. When, Again?

Imagine today is Monday. To talk about what's happening on Wednesday, you can say: *two days from now, on Wednesday, this Wednesday, not tomorrow but the next day, in two days, or in a few days.*

Use today's date as your guide. Think of different ways to describe the following date in relation to today:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Saturday | 3. your birthday | 5. the year 2017 |
| 2. the 12 th of this month | 4. Christmas Day | 6. the weekend |

5. How to Write the Date

A. Writing the Date

There are a few different ways to write the date in English.
In the US, the date is usually written in this order: month, day, year.
Here are some different ways to write the date:

- January 3, 2015
- January 3rd, 2015
- Jan 3, 2015
- Saturday, January 3, 2015
- 01/03/2015
- 01/03/15
- 01-03-15

Note:

In some other parts of the world, the day and month are switched around. This may be confusing if the date is written numerically:

01/03/2015 (January 3rd or March 1st?)

B. Abbreviations

DAYS

- Mon
- Tues
- Wed
- Thurs
- Fri
- Sat
- Sun

MONTHS

- Jan
- Feb
- Mar
- Apr
- May
- June
- July
- Aug
- Sept
- Oct
- Nov
- Dec

C. Practice

What is the date today?
How many ways can you write it?
