

Beginning English Lesson 4: Talking About Dates

Learn how to ask and answer questions about specific days.

To describe today's date, we need the **month**, the **day**, and the **year**. We write and say dates in this order.

Here are the names of the twelve **months** of each year in English.

Month Number	Month Name
1	January
2	February
3	March
4	April
5	May
6	June
7	July
8	August
9	September
10	October
11	November
12	December

In English, when we talk about the **day** of the month, we must use special words describing the *order* of that day in the month.

Day in Month	Pronunciation of Day	Day in Month	Pronunciation of Day
1st	first	16th	sixteenth
2nd	second	17th	seventeenth
3rd	third	18th	eighteenth
4th	fourth	19th	nineteenth
5th	fifth	20th	twentieth
6th	sixth	21st	twenty-first
7th	seventh	22nd	twenty-second
8th	eighth	23rd	twenty-third
9th	ninth	24th	twenty-fourth
10th	tenth	25th	twenty-fifth
11th	eleventh	26th	twenty-sixth
12th	twelfth	27th	twenty-seventh
13th	thirteenth	28th	twenty-eighth
14th	fourteenth	29th	twenty-ninth
15th	fifteenth	30th	thirtieth
		31st	thirty-first

The **year** in English has a special pronunciation. Most people pronounce the year by pronouncing the first two numbers of the year, then the last two numbers of the year. For example, you would say “nineteen sixty five” for the year 1965, and “twenty twenty” for the year 2020. However, some people pronounce the year normally – for example, you would say, “two thousand twenty” for 2020, or “two thousand eleven” for the year 2011. * For years between 2001 and 2009, you can say “two thousand one” or twenty o one (2001), “two thousand eight” or “twenty o eight”.

Here are some examples of how to pronounce **years** in English.

Year	Pronunciation
1982	nineteen eighty-two
1997	nineteen ninety seven
2005	two thousand five /twenty o five

In English, we write and say dates like this: the month first, then the day, and then the year.

For example, the date **5/12/2020** would be pronounced as

“May twelfth, twenty-twenty.”

We can also write 5/12/2020 as May 12th, 2020.

Here are some examples of how to pronounce dates in English.

Date (Written)	Date (Pronunciation)
9/15/2020	September fifteenth, twenty-twenty
10/2/1986	October second, nineteen eighty-six
3/18/1902	March eighteenth, nineteen o two
8/6/2010	August sixth, two thousand ten
1/29/2012	January twenty-ninth, twenty-twelve