

Les jours de la semaine

This book looks at the origin of the French names for the days of the week. Similarly to English, the French names refer to the Latin names of the planets: *Lunae dies* (day of the moon), *Martis dies* (day of Mars), etc.



There are two exceptions: Saturday and Sunday, which don't refer to Saturn and the Sun in French as they do in English, but to the Sabbath *Sambati dies* and to the Christian god *Dies dominicus*.

Pupils are encouraged to compare the French names with the names of the days of the week in their own language.

Answers to quiz on page 9: 1b, 2b, 3b, 4a

English translation

Days of the week

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|----|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| p2 | Monday | Monday is the day of the Moon. |
| p3 | Tuesday | Tuesday is the day of Mars. |
| p4 | Wednesday | Wednesday is the day of Mercury. |
| p5 | Thursday | Thursday is the day of Jupiter. |
| p6 | Friday | Friday is the day of Venus. |
| p7 | Saturday | Saturday is the day of the Sabbath. |
| p8 | Sunday | Sunday is the day of God. |
| p9 | Do you have a good memory? | |

1. Which day is this? a) Friday b) Monday c) Wednesday
2. In French, is Saturday the day of Saturn? a) yes b) no
3. Sunday is the day of ... a) the Sun b) God
4. Which day for Mars? a) Tuesday b) Wednesday

And in your language, what is the origin of the names for the days of the week?