Quora.com Should the Gregorian calendar be reformed?

The Gregorian calendar, instituted by Catholic Pope Gregory XIII in 1582, was an improvement over the inconsistent Julian calendar established by Julius Caesar. It is based on the solar year of 365 days, and is by far the most widely used calendar in the world today. However, it retained some inconsistencies and anachronisms that make it more difficult for children to learn, and for people in different cultures to follow.

For example, the months are of different lengths: seven months consist of 31 days, four months are 30 days, and one month (February) is only 28 days, but with a day added every four years on a leap year. This means that every month has different days of the week, so it is difficult to calculate which days will occur on which monthly or weekly cycle.

One problem of the present calendar is that the names of two days of the week, Tuesday and Thursday, both begin with the letter T, and two other days of the week, Saturday and Sunday, both begin with the letter S. This can be confusing in lists, and makes it impossible to use one letter for each different day of the week. The names of the days should be able, in tight spaces, to list the days of the week by their single initial letter.

Moreover, words like Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, are long and difficult to pronounce for speakers of languages without the "Th" phoneme. Names of the days should be only two phonemes.

The names of the months are also problematic. Most are named after Roman gods and goddesses, but July was named after Julius Caesar and August was named after his grandnephew Augustus Caesar. Why should those individuals have such recognition when there are other persons who have more greatly impacted human history? The months from September to December are named after Roman numbers, but they are not actually that named month. September is from the Latin word for 7, but it is really the 9^{th} month, and this problem continues for October, November and December. The word "December" is from the Latin word for 10, but it is really the 12^{th} month! That makes no sense at all.

The International Fixed Calendar attempts to "fix" some of these problems, by adding a 13^{th} month [Will this lead some people to worry about a 13^{th} unlucky month?] and retains the inconsistent lengths of months, so it is still confusing to many people. We have more important things to do with our time than trying to figure out which days of the week will fall on which days of the month.

I would like to suggest a new calendar that will simplify time calculations, while also integrating the current campaign by labor unions to reduce the 40 hour work week. Union leaders emphasize the need for working people to be able to have more time to do all the things they have to do, or want to do in their life, when they are not chained to a job. Union activists are asking for a reduction of one day, so that people will work at their jobs for 32 hours per week

instead of the current 40 hours a week. That is a good idea, but likely will not be adopted by many employers because it is such a severe reduction in the hours worked.

The system that I would like to suggest, following the practice of Julius and Gregory, is to immodestly call it THE WILLIAMS CALENDAR. Its organization is as follows:

There will be 12 months, each of which will last 30 days. This is closer to a lunar month of 29.5 days, but people will not have to remember how many days are in which month. All months are the same length: 30 days. The names of the months are listed below. For now, I want to turn my reasoning for choosing the names of the days.

NAMES OF THE DAYS OF THE WEEK

The names for days of the week are shortened words with the suffix "day". I chose the English word "day" because it is short and consistent.

Each month in the Williams Calendar consists of 5 weeks, and each week consists of 6 days [5 X 6 = 30 days].

Instead of being named after Roman deities or Latin words, I chose names of the days referring to astronomy. I made up these one-syllable names because I did not give favoritism to any particular part of the world. They are universally recognized as referring to our closest neighbors in our solar system. The shortened names of each day of the week are:

1. Solday [a holiday, referring to our Sun]
2. Lunday [a holiday, referring to our Lunar moon]
3. Veday [the first weekday of regular work, referring to the planet Venus]
4. Erday [the second weekday of regular work, referring to our planet Earth]
5. Marday [the third weekday of regular work, referring to the planet Mars]
6. Juday [the fourth weekday of regular work, referring to the planet Jupiter]

The biggest advantage of the 6-day Williams Calendar is that it makes it possible for workers in regular business hours to work for 8 hours on 4 days instead of 5 days. If they work 8 hours per day, their total workweek is 32 hours. Even if they work 9 hours per day, their total 36 hour workweek is still 4 hours less than the present 40 hour workweek. The Williams Calendar will enable employers to more easily make the change from a 5 day workweek to a 4 day workweek.

For employers that must keep their business open 24/7 around the clock, the Williams Calendar makes it easier to divide the 6 day week into two tracks, with one set of part-time employees working for 3 days Lunday, Veday, Erday, while another set works the other 3 days of Marday, Juday, Solday.

NAMES OF END-OF-YEAR HOLIDAYS

With each of the 12 months having 30 days, that yearly total is 360 days. However, a solar year is 365 days. The solution I suggest is to add five holidays at the end of the year. In the

Williams Calendar, these days will not be part of any month, but will have their own special names:
1. Sunday [a holiday of appreciation for our sun, without which life on earth is impossible]
2. Holyday [a day for worshipers of all religions to celebrate their beliefs],
3. Earthday [a day for naturalists, humanists, animists, & environmentalists to honor our earth]
4. Moonday [a day of appreciation for our moon, and the impact it has on our lives].
5. New Year's Day [a holiday to celebrate the beginning of a new year]

On every fourth year there will be a Leapday, similar to what now exists in the Gregorian calendar, and for the same reason. But instead of occurring in February, this holiday will be inserted after Earthday as part of the holiday week.

NAMES OF MONTHS
Now, let's turn to my reasoning for how best to name the twelve months of the year.
The names of the months will be shortened forms drawn from the ordinal name in Spanish. I chose Spanish because it is the most widely spoken language on earth. But I add the suffix "te" to denote the name of a month (see the following section on German to understand this suffix)
The names of each month, listed before the English name, and ordinal symbol, are as follows:
Primerte January 1st
Segunte February 2nd
Terserte March 3rd
Kwarte April 4
Keente May 5
Sexte June 6
Unfortunately for English speakers, the ordinal number in
Spanish for July is Septi [literally 7^{th}] which makes sense in Spanish but is quite confusing for English speakers who might associate "Septi" as the 7^{th} month with "September" which in English is the 9^{th} month. This confusion continues with "Octi" as the 8^{th} month which can be confused with October; "Nove" the 9^{th} month can be confused with November, and "Deci" the 10^{th} month can be confused with December.

Unfortunately, to use Spanish words for the 11^{th} and 12^{th} months is even more confusing because the Spanish word for 11^{th} is "Undecimo" [literally "One plus ten"] and for 12^{th} is "Duodecimo" [literally "Two plus Ten"] .
Because of all these problems, neither English or Spanish are good languages to use for naming the months of the last half of the year, as the English words July to December. French and Italian have the same confusion of names for months.

On the other hand, German language does not have this problem. German is one of the source languages for English. Because of this connection, the next logical choice is to use the German words for the 7^{th} through 12^{th} months. A simplified spelling of the German months would be spelled as:

Zeebte July 7th
Akte August 8th
Niinte September 9th

Zente October 10th
Elfte November 11th
Zwelfte December 12th

Because English and Spanish are the most widely spoken languages in more countries than any other languages on earth, and because German is a source language for English, the combination of all three of these languages are used for the names of the days of the week and the months of the year. Hopefully, this background will allow the Williams Calendar to reach more people than any other choices for these calendar names.

HOW TO POPULARIZE THE WILLIAMS CALENDAR

I am under no illusions that making a change of this sort will be an easy matter. I am not the dictator of a major empire like Julius Caesar, or leader of a major religion like Pope Gregory. But if readers recognize the logic of the Williams Calendar, and the ease of using it to denote time sequences, it has the potential to spread on the internet just by increasingly widespread use. Just add it after you include the Gregorian date on any letter or dated written matter. For example, a letter dated on October 5, 2025 can also be written as 5 Zente 2025.
And because every month has 30 days, a letter dated the last day of February 2025 can also be written as 30 Segunte 2025

Because the Williams Calendar incorporates the 4-day workweek idea that is increasingly being promoted by various labor unions, working people and labor organizations have an incentive to support a change from the present-day Gregorian Calendar to the new Williams Calendar. The Williams Calendar is a practical way to switch to a 4-day workweek. Please note in the comments here, any labor organization which decides to encourage use of the Williams Calendar. Anyone reading this essay may feel free to duplicate this essay into any form that you feel best accomplishes the objectives of this revised calendar.

If you have suggestions for other changes which you think should be incorporated into the Williams Calendar, please leave a comment to respond to this essay.

If you agree that the Williams Calendar is better than the Gregorian Calendar, start by using the Williams words right after you write the words of dates in English, Spanish, German, or whatever language you use. This will alert others using your language how it works. Feel free to translate this essay into your own language, and then post that translation on quora.com and other social media.

SUMMARY OF TERMS

To summarize, here are the words to use for the days and months in the Williams Calendar:

THE TWELVE MONTHS OF THE YEAR

Each of the 12 months in the Williams Calendar consists of 30 days. Each “month” is subdivided into 5 weeks, and each “week” consists of 6 days [5 weeks X 6 days = 30 days].
The months are named after words drawn from Spanish and German languages, and ending with the German suffix “te” to denote a month.
Primerte [1ST month of the year, formerly January]
Segunte [2nd month, formerly February]

Terserte [3rd month, formerly March]
Kwarte [4th month, formerly April]
Keente [5th month, formerly May]
Sexte [6th month, formerly June]
Zeebte [7th month, formerly July]
Akte [8th month, formerly August]
Niinte [9th month, formerly September]
Zente [10th month, formerly October]
Elfte [11th month, formerly November]
Zwelfte [12th month, formerly the first part of December]
Yearend [holidays, formerly the last part of December]

THE SIX DAYS OF EACH OF THE TWELVE MONTHS

The 6 days of each week consist of 4 work days separated by 2 holidays, and are named after shortened references to our solar system, followed by the English word "day":

1. Solday [a holiday, referring to our Sun]
2. Lunday [a holiday, referring to our Lunar moon]
3. Veday [the first weekday of regular work, referring to the planet Venus]
4. Erday [the second weekday of regular work, referring to our planet Earth]
5. Marday [the third weekday of regular work, referring to the planet Mars]
6. Juday [the fourth weekday of regular work, referring to the planet Jupiter]

THE FIVE HOLIDAYS AT THE END OF THE YEAR, PLUS LEAP YEAR

In the Williams Calendar, these five holidays at the end of each year are not part of the twelve months, but have their own special Yearend names:

1. Sunday [a holiday in honor of our sun, without which life on earth is impossible]
2. Holyday [a holiday for worshipers of all religions to celebrate their beliefs],
3. Earthday [a holiday for naturists, humanists, and animists in honor of our earth]
4. Moonday [a holiday in honor of our moon, and the impact of it and the larger universe on our lives].
5. New Year's Day [a holiday to celebrate the beginning of a new year]
6. On every fourth year a Leapday should be added, similar to what now exists in the Gregorian calendar, and for the same reason. But instead of occurring in February, this holiday will be inserted after Earthday as an additional day added to the yearend holiday week. This continued use of Leapday will ensure the longterm accuracy of the Williams Calendar. Eventually, one additional Leapday will be needed to keep the calendar in synch with the solar year, but that minor adjustment will not be necessary for a very long time.

I submit these ideas as the product of much thinking I have been doing on this subject for a very long time. I offer this revised calendar as my gift to future generations of humans all around the world, who hopefully will be able to organize time more efficiently as a result of the adoption of the Williams Calendar.

Most sincerely,