

The Islamic Calendar

Islam has its own calendar. It dates from the Hijrah, or migration, when Allah's Messenger and his companions left Makkah for Madinah. He departed from Makkah on 27 Safar, about 12 September 622 CE and arrived in Madinah on 23 September, 622 CE.

The month of Muharram is the first month of the Islamic year. The Islamic year is a lunar year. Our Islamic calendar is called the **HIJRI** calendar, abbreviated AH (Anno Hegirae), follows the phases of the moon, and so the seasons change during the months. The western calendar is called the **GREGORIAN** calendar, and follows the sun, so the seasons always stay the same each month.

Every month the Hijri calendar has either **29 or 30 days**, whereas the Gregorian calendar has **30 or 31 days** with February being the only month with **28 days**. Every 4 years the western calendar has a leap year, and in that year, February will have **29 days**.

Both the Hijri and the Gregorian calendar have **12 months** in a year, but the Hijri calendar has **354 or 355 days** in a year, compared to the Gregorian calendar, which has **365 or 366 days** in a year.

The names of the Islamic months are as follow:

- ◆ Muharram
- ◆ Safar
- ◆ Rabi' ul Awwal
- ◆ Rabi' uth Thani
- ◆ Jumadal Ula
- ◆ Jumadal Ukhra
- ◆ Rajab
- ◆ Sha'baan
- ◆ Ramadan
- ◆ Shawwal
- ◆ Dhul Qi'da
- ◆ Dhul Hijjah

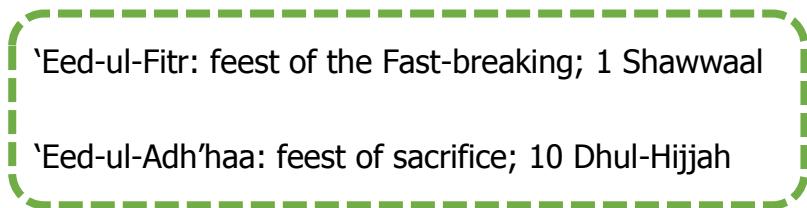


The seven days of the week are named by the ordinal numbers, beginning with the first day, al-Ahad, which is Sunday.

The names of the days of the week are as follows:

Al-Ahad	Sunday
Al-Ithnayn	Monday
Ath-tulathaa'	Tuesday
Al-Arbi'aa'	Wednesday
Al-khamees	Thursday
Al-Jumu'a	Friday
As-Sabt	Saturday

There are two Islamic festivals:

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- 'Eed-ul-Fitr: feast of the Fast-breaking; 1 Shawwaal
 - 'Eed-ul-Adh'haa: feast of sacrifice; 10 Dhul-Hijjah

Exercise

Fill in the blanks

1. The Islamic calendar starts from the _____ of the prophet ﷺ.
2. The Hijrah Calendar is abbreviated as _____, meaning _____.
3. The Islamic year is a _____ year.
4. The Islamic Calendar is based upon the cycles of the _____.
5. The twelve months of the Hijrah year are of either _____ or _____ days.
6. _____, which is _____ is the _____ day of the week.