



The calendar we are all familiar with is known as the Gregorian Calendar, and it's been in use for centuries. However, there may be room for improvement. Here are arguments for and against changing the calendar:

<u>Arguments FOR the Gregorian Calendar</u>	<u>Arguments AGAINST the Gregorian Calendar</u>
<p><i>The calendar year stays in line fairly well with the seasonal year. To put it another way, it will always be summer in August and winter in February.</i></p>	<p><i>The structure of the months is irregular, with month lengths ranging arbitrarily from 28 days to 31 days. Even adults have to stop and think about how many days are in "August" or "November."</i></p>
<p><i>Everyone is familiar with it. Once children master the format of the calendar in elementary school, they do not spend much time worrying about it for the rest of their lives. Put simply, it's really not that confusing.</i></p>	<p><i>The leap year rule is hard for many people to understand: "An extra day is added at the end of the second month every four years, except in years whose number is divisible by 100... except in years whose number is divisible by 400."</i></p>
<p><i>The rules of the calendar are already part of the "logistics" of society, used in countless computer programs and essential to long-term planning. Even the smallest changes to the calendar would be a major headache to lots of people.</i></p>	<p><i>The leap year day is inserted at the end of the second month (February) instead of at the end of the year. This adds needless complexity to the calendar.</i></p>
<p><i>The calendar is an integral part of our language and culture. For example, take the phrase "April showers bring May flowers." A new calendar might change things that are very familiar to us.</i></p>	<p><i>The irregularity of calendar makes it difficult to formulate schedules of events occurring on certain days of the week which can be re-used from year to year. For example, Christmas falls on a different day of the week each year... Easter falls on the same weekday, but a different date.</i></p>
<p><i>Many religions depend on the uninterrupted seven-day week, with the seventh day often used as a day of worship (this is the case for Christians, Jews, and Muslims). The new proposed calendar would have one extra day in the year, throwing the seven-day week off.</i></p>	<p><i>The irregular calendar also makes it very difficult to design schedules which can be used in any quarter (of three months), term (of four months) or semester (of six months). There's no way to evenly divide the year.</i></p>
<p><i>It's silly to discuss reforming the calendar, because all people and all countries would never agree to a change. The Gregorian calendar took nearly 350 years to be adopted by all countries that previously used the Julian calendar... and things were much simpler back then.</i></p>	<p><i>The months of the calendar have no relation to the lunar cycles. This means that a new moon or a full moon can occur on any day of the month, which could be avoided if the months and days were more uniform.</i></p>