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Question: Is there some kind of formula I can use to help me work out various dates I might need in Excel?

Answer: By using a simple (and sometimes not so simple) formula Excel can supply you with every kind of date you might need to display - keep this document handy because you will definitely want to copy and paste some of these functions!

Process: Tried and Tested in 2003 and 2007. Here is what you can do:

Detect Leap Years

```
=MOD(YEAR(A1),4)=0
```

If A1 is a leap year, the above formula will return TRUE

The Gregorian calendar adds an extra day to February, making it 29 days long, in years divisible by 4, excepting years divisible by 100, but including years divisible by 400. So 1996, 2000, and 2400 are leap years but 1800, 1900 and 2100 are not. (The Gregorian calendar seems to be the one in use in most countries but you might want to check just in case)

Wow, I never knew that. Anyway, here is my "improved" formula as a workaround.

```
=OR(MOD(YEAR(A1),400)=0,AND(MOD(YEAR(A1),4)=0,MOD(YEAR(A1),100)<>0))
```

Here's a shorter one!

```
=MONTH(DATE(YEAR(A1),2,29))=2
```

Avoid Weekends

Let's say that you must deliver on a weekday but the date shown in A1 is on a Saturday or Sunday.

Use this formula to get the preceding Friday (if A1 is already a weekday, it will just show the date in A1)

```
=MIN(A1-(WEEKDAY(A1,2)-5),A1)
```

Use this formula to get the following Monday (if A1 is already a weekday, it will just show the date in A1)



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```
=IF(WEEKDAY(A1,2)>5,A1+(8-WEEKDAY(A1,2)),A1)
```

To just avoid Sundays, use this formula for the preceding Saturday.

```
=MIN(A1-(WEEKDAY(A1,2)-6),A1)
```

Or this formula to get the following Monday

```
=IF(WEEKDAY(A1,2)>6,A1+(8-WEEKDAY(A1,2)),A1)
```

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