

How to calculate age from dates

1. Set down death-year, month and day expressed in numbers, as example below:

Death date: 20 August 1973	1973	8	20
Birth date: 10 June 1901	<u>-1901</u>	<u>-6</u>	<u>-10</u>
	72	ys	2 mo 10 ds

2. To "borrow days" when numbers are unequal: The formula is 1 month-30days.

Death date: 10 August 1973	1973	8	+10 = 40 ds
Birth date: 20 June 1901	<u>-1901</u>	<u>-6</u>	<u>-20</u>
	72	ys	1 mo 20 ds

3. To "borrow a month". The formula: 1 year = 12 months.

Death date: 20 August 1973	2	12mo	1973	+8 = 20 mo	20 ds
Birth date: 10 Sept. 1901	<u>-1901</u>			<u>-9 mo</u>	<u>10ds</u>
	71	ys		11mo	30ds

Given a death date and yr-mo-da, one can reverse the process to find the approximate birth date. The formula is: 12 months x 30 days = 360 days. This will not give exact date of birth, because we actually have 365 days per year, except leap years. However, this methods of birth determination would give a date within 5 days of actual birth, by which one could look for birth records, etc.

taken from the [Jacksonville Area Genealogical and Historical Society](#), November 1, 1985