



The Handbook

Codex

http://codex.wordpress.org/Template_Tags/the_date

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Template Tags/the date

Description

Displays or returns the date of a post or a set of posts if they were all published on the same day. When there are multiple posts published on the same date on a page, **the tag will only display the date the first time it's called.**

This tag must be used within [The Loop](#).

Note: To display the date for posts individually, use [the_time\(\)](#) instead with a date-specific format string.

Usage

```
<?php the_date('format', 'before', 'after', echo); ?>
```

Examples

Default Usage

Displays the date using defaults.

```
<p>Date posted: <?php the_date(); ?></p>
```

Date as Year, Month, Date in Heading

Displays the date using using the 'Y-m-d' format (ex: 2004-11-30), inside an <h2> tag.

```
<?php the_date('Y-m-d', '<h2>', '</h2>'); ?>
```

Date in Heading Using \$my_date Variable

Returns the date in the default format inside an <h2> tag and assigns it to the \$my_date variable. The variable's value is then displayed with the PHP echo command.

```
<?php $my_date = the_date('', '<h2>', '</h2>', FALSE); echo $my_date; ?>
```

Parameters

format

(*string*) The format for the date. Defaults to the date format configured in your WordPress options. See [Formatting Date and Time](#).

before

(*string*) Text to place before the date. There is no default.

after

(*string*) Text to place after the date. There is no default.

echo

(*boolean*) Display the date (`TRUE`), or return the date to be used in PHP (`FALSE`). Defaults to `TRUE`.

Related

[the_date_xml](#), [the_date](#), [the_time](#), [get_the_time](#), [single_month_title](#), [the_weekday](#) (Deprecated), [the_weekday_date](#) (Deprecated)