



Ordering and comparing dates

When you buy food you look at the **sell by** date. You compare the dates so you can buy the food that is fresh and not past its sell by date.

Comparing the months

To compare two sell by dates look at the year first. If the years are the same, look at the months.

Example:

Today's date is 02 Feb 2007. Look at these packets of cheese. One date is 06 (June), the other date is 04 (April). The packet of cheese that will last the longest has a sell by date of 17/06/07.



Comparing the days

If the year and month are the same, look at the day.

Example:

Today's date is 02 Apr 2007. Look at these packets of yoghurt. One is dated 16 April, the other is dated to sell by 5 April. The yoghurt dated 5 April will only last a few days, so the best yoghurt to buy is the one dated 16/04/07.



Some packets of food only show the sell by dates with the day and the month. With these you need to look at the month first, then the day.

Example:

Today's date is the 22 May 2007. There are three cartons of milk for sale. The first has a sell by date of 25 May, so it will only be fresh for a few days. The third is already out of date with a sell by date of the 21 May. The best carton to buy would be the second as it has a sell by date of the 1 June.

