

## Q&As: Question and Answer(s)

Question: How many seconds are in a year?

Answer(s): Many. It depends!

In a non leap year of 365 days the number of seconds is:

$$365 * 24 * 60 * 60 = 31,536,000$$

In a leap year the answer is 31,622,400.

In a solar year (of 365.2422 days) it is 31,556,926.08 seconds.

But in a sidereal year and also a lunar year it is again different.

Yet another different answer is that there are only 12 seconds a year.

January second, February second, March second, etc..

Question: If someone was married since 1955, how long ago was that.

Answer(s): It depends! What is "it" now?

If it is the year 2001 then to the year 1955 has been (2001 - 1955) or 46 years.

But if "it" is the military time 2001 (8:01 pm), then it has been only 6 minutes!  
Note that 1955 is 5 minutes before 8pm, and 2001 is 1 minute after 8.

In 1996 the Ariane 5 launcher crashed, at a cost of 500 million dollars, because of a simple misunderstanding between real numbers and integers.

In 1999 the NASA Mars Orbiter was lost because of a confusion between metric units and "nonmetric" or English units.

How would you like to have made such an error?