

You may not know the meaning of "leap year," but have you heard of the leap second. In Paris, a special group of experts tracks the rotation of Earth from day to day. On December 31 each year, they may choose to add or subtract a second from clock time. It is necessary to add a leap second nearly once a year on that day or June 30. All leap seconds since the first in 1972 have been added to clock time. Subtractions are unlikely, but they are possible.