

Units & Systems

Should Americans bother with metric?

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Every country in the world, with the exception of the United States, Burma, and Liberia, use the metric system. Leaders in science, politics, and industry have been trying to convince the U.S. government to make laws that require U.S. schools and businesses to adopt the metric system. However, the United States continues to resist. The time has come for change!



counterPOINT

Why bother learning the metric system? Other than an occasional 2-liter bottle of soda, when do we ever use the metric system? The speed limit for cars driving in your neighborhood is 35 *miles* per hour. You get a quarter-*pounder* at McDonalds. The temperature for a hot day in July is 90 **degrees Fahrenheit**. The current system is easy enough, so why bother learning a new one?

See the timeline of important events in the metrication movement. What do you think of the pace of change? Do you think it is necessary for the U.S. to change at all?

