

Measuring Up Metric

Prefixes are Powerful

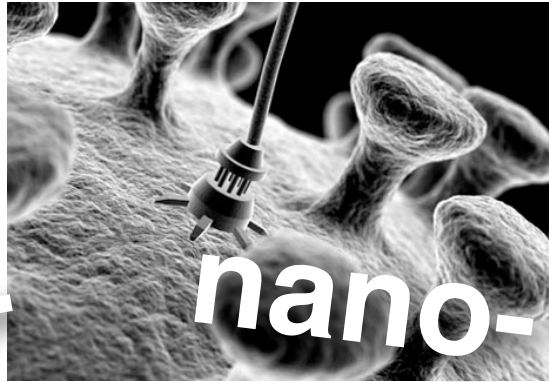
You may already be familiar with these powerful prefixes. Can you determine their meanings from reading these science phrases?



This offshore wind turbine near Belgium has a power capacity of nearly five megawatts!

Do you think **mega-** means:

- a large quantity
- a small fraction



Nanotechnology is the design and study of things on a molecular or atomic **scale**.

Do you think **nano-** means:

- extremely small
- extremely large



The invention of the microscope allowed scientists to learn much more about the cell structure of plants.

Do you think **micro-** means:

- tiny
- huge



My thumb drive stores up to four gigabytes. I can store all my music on it.

Do you think **giga-** means:

- a very large number
- a very small number

A tiny piece of computer data is a byte.

1 kilobyte = 1,000 bytes

A plain text email message can be about about 5 KB (kilobytes).

1 megabyte = 1 million bytes

An audio recording of a song can be about 5 MB (megabytes).

1 gigabyte = 1 billion bytes

A 20-minute, high-definition video recording can be about 1.5 GB (gigabytes).

