


Measuring Up Metric

Metric Abbreviations


The metric system also has a convenient set of **abbreviations** that is recognized all over the world.

To use the system, join together a prefix **abbreviation** and a base **abbreviation**.


Prefix	compared to base
k KILO-	× 1,000 (1,000 times greater)
h HECTO-	× 100 (100 times greater)
da DEKA-	× 10 (10 times greater)
no prefix	× 1 (standard base without change)
DECI- d	× .1 (10 times smaller)
CENTI- c	× .01 (100 times smaller)
MILLI- m	× .001 (1,000 times smaller)



Base for length units:
METER **m**



Base for volume units:
LITER **L**



Base for mass units:
GRAM **g**

For example:

centimeter

c m

The **abbreviation** for centimeter is **cm**.

gram **g**

The **abbreviations** for base units are even more straightforward. The **abbreviation** for gram is **g**.

Give it a try! **Abbreviate** the following:

kilometer
.....
liter
.....
milligram
.....
millimeter
.....
milliliter
.....
kilogram
.....
centimeter
.....

Try some conversions using abbreviations:

72.7 kg	=	g
100 mg	=	g
2.21 m	=	cm
5 km	=	m
750 mm	=	cm
16.1 cm	=	mm
10,000 L	=	kL
1,250 mL	=	L