

The Metric System - Prefixes

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Prefix</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>Example</u>
T	tera-	10^{12}	$1 \text{ m} = 10^{-12} \text{ Tm}$
G	giga-	10^9	$1 \text{ m} = 10^{-9} \text{ Gm}$
M	mega-	10^6	$1 \text{ m} = 10^{-6} \text{ Mm}$
k	kilo-	10^3	$1 \text{ m} = 10^{-3} \text{ km}$
h	hecto-	10^2	$1 \text{ m} = 10^{-2} \text{ hm}$
da or D	deka or deca-	10^1	$1 \text{ m} = 10^{-1} \text{ dam}$
m, g, or L*	basic unit	10^0	$1 \text{ m} = 1 \text{ m}$
d	deci-	10^{-1}	$1 \text{ m} = 10^1 \text{ dm}$
c	centi-	10^{-2}	$1 \text{ m} = 10^2 \text{ cm}$
m	milli-	10^{-3}	$1 \text{ m} = 10^3 \text{ mm}$
μ Greek letter "mu"	micro-	10^{-6}	$1 \text{ m} = 10^6 \mu\text{m}$
n	nano-	10^{-9}	$1 \text{ m} = 10^9 \text{ nm}$
\circ	\circ		\circ
A	Angstrom	10^{-10}	$1 \text{ m} = 10^{10} \text{ Am}$
p	pico-	10^{-12}	$1 \text{ m} = 10^{12} \text{ pm}$
f	femto-	10^{-15}	$1 \text{ m} = 10^{15} \text{ fm}$
a	atto-	10^{-18}	$1 \text{ m} = 10^{18} \text{ am}$

* The abbreviation for liter has officially been changed from the script *l* to a capital L. Many typewriters could not make the script letter. The regular letter *l* in lower case looked too much like a number 1. Use L for liter.