

REVIEW

METRIC

PREFIXES

COMMON METRIC PREFIXES

Small values:	letter	power of 10	
deci	d	10^{-1}	one-tenth
centi	c	10^{-2}	one-hundredth
milli	m	10^{-3}	one-thousandth
micro	μ or mc		one-millionth
nano	n		one-billionth
pico	p		one-trillionth
Large values:			
deca	da		tens
hecto	h		hundreds
kilo	k		thousands
Mega	M		millions
Giga	G		billions
Tera	T		trillions

These prefixes may be used with length (meters), mass (grams), liquid volume (liters), time (seconds) and other units (bytes).

Examples: Think about the magnitude of each of these.

- He ran a 5K race in 40 minutes.
- I have 2.5 gigs on my phone.
- Sound travels at 300,000 km each second.
- An ant has a mass of 3 mg.
- A computer can multiply two 10-digit numbers in 1ns.
- She takes 1000mg of fish oil daily.
- The medicine comes in 10cc vials.
- One μ gram per kg of body weight is a lethal dose of ricin.

Have you heard statements like these?

- Pascal micro manages everything in the office.
- Grace needs mega bucks to purchase the house she wants

Guess the answer to these:

- 2000 Mockingbirds = _____
- One-millionth of a fish = _____
- One million phones = _____