

Metric Prefixes and Their Meanings

Prefix	Symbol	Meaning	Factor	Example (Using Metre)	How to Remember
kilo	k	thousand	1,000	1 kilometre = 1,000 metres	Think of kilogram — 1 kg = 1000 g
hecto	h	hundred	100	1 hectometre = 100 metres	Hecto sounds like hundred
deca (or deka)	da	ten	10	1 decametre = 10 metres	Deca = decade = 10 years
BASE UNIT	—	—	1	metre (m), gram (g), litre (L)	The main unit — no prefix
deci	d	tenth	0.1	1 decimetre = 0.1 metre	Decimal means tenths
centi	c	hundredth	0.01	1 centimetre = 0.01 metre	Cent means 100 (like in century = 100 years)
milli	m	thousandth	0.001	1 millimetre = 0.001 metre	Milli → mini → very small

Tip to Memorize
(from Big to Small):

King Henry Died By Drinking Chocolate Milk

Word	Prefix	Meaning
King	kilo	1,000
Henry	hecto	100
Died	deca	10
By	base unit (metre, litre, gram)	1
Drinking	deci	0.1
Chocolate	centi	0.01
Milk	milli	0.001

Conversion Ladder

