

Metric Units for Measuring Length

The basic unit for measuring length in the metric system is **the meter**. All the other units are based on the meter, and in fact, have the word “meter” in them.

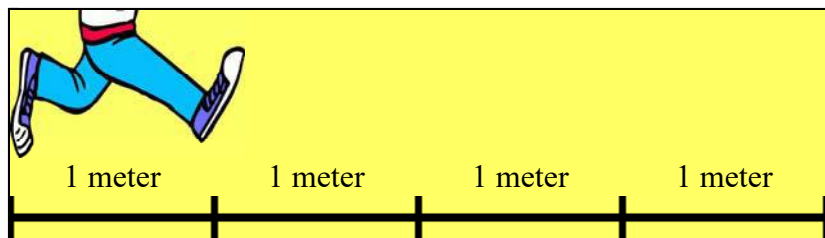
Each unit in the metric system is 10 times the smaller unit. For example, 1 kilometer is 10 hectometers and 1 centimeter is 10 millimeters. However, we don’t commonly use hectometers, dekameters, or decimeters. You need to learn only the units that are bolded in the chart.

<u>Units of length in the metric system</u>			
10	kilometer	km	“Kilo” means 1,000.
10	hectometer	hm	(not used)
10	dekameter	dam	(not used)
10	meter	m	the basic unit
10	decimeter	dm	(not used much)
10	centimeter	cm	This is 1/100 of a meter.
10	millimeter	mm	This is 1/10 of a centimeter.

Remember also that **1 meter is very close to 1 yard**. One meter is just a bit longer than one yard.

1. Draw two lines at least 4 m long that start at the same place (outside, in a hallway, or a large room).

- a. On the one line, make marks for 1 m, 2 m, 3 m, and 4 m. Then try to take “hops” one meter long.



- b. On the second line make marks at each foot, from 1 to 13 feet. Then take 1-yard hops.

Do the two kinds of hops feel about the same?



2. Measure how tall you and other people are in centimeters. Write it also using whole meters and centimeters.

Name	Height
	_____ cm = <u>1</u> m _____ cm.