

"Quick & Dirty" Metric Guide

Prefix	Base	Symbol	Acronym	Example with mass
kilo	10^3	k	<i>kiss</i>	kilogram, kg
hecto	10^2	h	<i>him/her</i>	hectogram, hg
deka	10^1	da	<i>dearly</i>	dekagram, dag
<i>base</i>	10^0	base	<i>but</i>	gram, g
deci	10^{-1}	d	<i>don't</i>	decigram, dg
centi	10^{-2}	c	<i>call</i>	centigram, cg
milli	10^{-3}	m	<i>me</i>	milligram, mg

Example: There are 10^3 grams in one kilogram,
or there are 10^{-3} kilograms in one gram

Example: There are 10^{-2} grams in one centigram,
or there are 10^2 centigrams in one gram

Example: There are 10^2 liters in one hectoliter,
or there are $(10^{-2} \text{ hL/L})(10^{-2} \text{ L/cL}) = 10^{-4} \text{ hL / cL}$