

# "Quick & Dirty" Metric Guide

Prefix	Base	Symbol	Acronym	Example with mass
<b>kilo</b>	$10^3$	k	<i>kiss</i>	kilogram, kg
<b>hecto</b>	$10^2$	h	<i>him/her</i>	hectogram, hg
<b>deka</b>	$10^1$	da	<i>dearly</i>	dekagram, dag
<i>base</i>	$10^0$	base	<i>but</i>	gram, g
<b>deci</b>	$10^{-1}$	d	<i>don't</i>	decigram, dg
<b>centi</b>	$10^{-2}$	c	<i>call</i>	centigram, cg
<b>milli</b>	$10^{-3}$	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  $(10^{-2} \text{ hL/L})(10^{-2} \text{ L/cL}) = 10^{-4} \text{ hL / cL}$