

"Quick & Dirty" Metric Guide

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