

Sample Problem

Armando stepped on the scale in his doctor's office and found out that his mass is 35 kg. What is his mass in grams?

1. List the given and unknown values.

Given: mass in kilograms_35 kg

Unknown: mass in grams_? g

2. Determine the relationship between units.

By using the table below, you know that you will multiply because it takes a lot of grams to make up each kilogram.

3. Write the equation for the conversion.

$$\text{mass in g} = \text{mass in kg} \times \frac{1000 \text{ g}}{1 \text{ kg}}$$

4. Insert the known values into the equation, and solve.

$$\text{mass in g} = 35 \text{ kg} \times \frac{1000 \text{ g}}{1 \text{ kg}}$$

$$\text{mass in g} = 35\,000 \text{ g}$$

Prefix	Symbol	Meaning	Multiple of base unit
<i>mega-</i>	M	million	1 000 000
<i>kilo-</i>	k	thousand	1000
<i>deci-</i>	d	tenth	0.1
<i>centi-</i>	c	hundredth	0.01
<i>milli-</i>	m	thousandth	0.001
<i>micro-</i>	μ	millionth	0.000 001

Answer these questions in the space provided. Show your work and include the units.

1. On March 24, 1989, the *Exxon Valdez* struck a reef in Prince William Sound, Alaska, spilling 37 854 120 L of crude oil. What is this volume in milliliters?

2. The Tent meteorite, found in 1897 near Cape York, on the west coast of Greenland, is the largest meteorite exhibited by any museum. It has a mass of 30 883 kg. How much is the mass of this meteorite in milligrams?

3. Speed skater Kim Ki-hoon, of South Korea, won the 1000 m shorttrack race in the 1992 Olympics with a time of 90.76s. How many milliseconds did it take him to finish the race? How many centimeters long was the race?

Sample Problem

At 553 m tall, the CN Tower, in Toronto, Canada, is one of the tallest structures in the world. What is the tower's height in kilometers?

1. List the given and unknown values.

Given: height in meters = 553 m

Unknown: height in kilometers_? km

2. Determine the relationship between units.

Using the table above, you can see that you will divide because there are fewer kilometers than meters in a given distance.

3. Write the equation for the conversion.

$$\text{height in km} = \text{height in m} \times \frac{1 \text{ km}}{1000 \text{ m}}$$

4. Insert the known values into the equation, and solve.

$$\text{height in km} = 553 \text{ m} \times \frac{1 \text{ km}}{1000 \text{ m}}$$

$$\text{height in km} = 0.553 \text{ km}$$

Practice

4. One of the smallest species of insects in the world is *Caraphractus cinctus*, a type of wasp. The average mass of this wasp is $5\ \mu\text{g}$. Convert this mass into grams.
5. Scientists studying bull sperm whales off the coast of South Africa have calculated that these mammals can descend to depths of nearly 3000 m during their search for food. What is this depth in kilometers?
6. Laura runs a 100 m race in 20.0 s. What is her time in kiloseconds? How long is the race in kilometers?
7. It does not take a large electric current, the amount of charge that passes through a substance each second, to cause a fatal shock. The smallest deadly amount of electricity through the human body is 100 mA (milliamperes). What is this current in amperes?
8. Pikes Peak is a mountain in Colorado. Its height is 4301 m above sea level. What is this altitude in kilometers?
9. Yosemite Falls, in California, has a total height of 73 900 cm. What is this height in meters?
10. The Rio Grande is the river between Texas and Mexico, but not everyone realizes that it begins in Colorado and flows through New Mexico. The river's total length is 3 033 000 m. How many kilometers is this?