

Metric and Imperial Units of Measurement

Read the following description of imperial units:

There are **20** fluid ounces in a pint and **8** pints in a gallon.

There are **16** ounces in a pound, **14** pounds in a stone, **8** stone in a hundredweight and **20** hundredweight in a long ton.

There are **12** inches in a foot, **3** feet in a yard, **220** yards in a furlong and **8** furlongs in a mile.

Now read the metric units version:

There are **1000** millilitres in a litre.

There are **1000** grams in a kilogram and **1000** kilograms in a tonne.

There are **10** millimetres in a centimetre, **100** centimetres in a metre and **1000** metres in a kilometre.

Although we usually use metric units these days, many people still think in imperial units, and we still use the old system for measuring particular things.

What do you think these people are measuring? Write your guess beside the speech bubbles.

8 pounds 5 ounces!

I'll have a pint, please.

Must be about 6 foot 4.

It's another 7 miles, I think.

I'll have a quarter-pounder, please.

10 stone 6, if you must know.

Useful Imperial to Metric Conversions:

1 pint \approx 570 millilitres	1 ounce \approx 30 grams	1 inch \approx 2.5 centimetres
1 gallon \approx 4.5 litres	1 pound \approx 450 grams	1 foot \approx 30 centimetres
		1 mile \approx 1.6 kilometres

Useful Metric to Imperial Conversions:

1 litre \approx 1.75 pints	1 kilogram \approx 2.2 pounds	1 metre \approx 39 inches
		1 kilometre \approx 0.6 miles

(These aren't exact conversions, so we use the \approx (roughly equals) sign.)

*You **do not** need to memorize any of these, but it's useful to know roughly how big each type of unit is. You **will** need to use the tables above to do conversions.*

Using the conversions above, fill in the gaps in the sentences below:

I'd like two pounds of ham, please. About _____ grams.

I need a 3-inch diameter bath plug. That'll be _____ centimetres.

My fuel tank holds 10 gallons of petrol, or _____ litres.

If you fly from Birmingham to London it's a trip of about 100 miles, which is the same as _____ kilometres.

My foot is actually about 1 foot long. That's _____ centimetres.

This cake recipe needs 6 ounces of flour. That's about _____ grams.

Our family uses 10 pints of milk a week. That's _____ litres.

At a German pub, half a litre costs the same as a pint in England.

Which gives you the most for your money? How do you know?