



Math with Scientific Notation

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Prefixes You Must Know

Power of 10	Exponent	Prefix	Symbol	Common Name
9	10 ⁹	giga	G	billion
6	10 ⁶	mega	M	million
3	10 ³	kilo	k	thousand
2	10 ²	hecto	h	hundred
1	10 ¹	deca	da	ten
-1	10 ⁻¹	deci	d	tenth
-2	10 ⁻²	centi	c	hundredth
-3	10 ⁻³	milli	m	thousandth
-6	10 ⁻⁶	micro	μ	millionth
-9	10 ⁻⁹	nano	n	billionth

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Time to Forget Henry

- King Henry Did Usually Drink Chocolate Milk.. but that's for kids.



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Scientific Notation

- A number in scientific notation looks like...

4.25 x 10³ m
- Number
 - Must start with an integer from 1 to 9
 - 0.21 x 10² isn't quite right
- Power of 10
- Units
 - one of the most important parts

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Easier to Read

300,000,000.m/s

- Light travels 300,000,000 meters each second
- Find the decimal
- Move the decimal - count how far it goes
- Use that for the exponent

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Which is Easier to Read?

300,000,000 m/s or..

$3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$

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Easier to Read

0.0000065 m

- Really small numbers work too
- Find the decimal
- Move the decimal - count how far it goes
- This time, the exponent is negative

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Which is Appropriate?

0.0000065 m or..

$6.5 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}$ or..

$6.5 \mu\text{m}$

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Not as Far To Go

$8500 \times 10^6 \text{ g}$

- This number isn't quite in scientific notation
- Find the decimal
- Move the decimal & count how far it goes
- Change the exponent by that much

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$8.500 \times 10^6 \text{ g}$

- You moved the decimal 3 times
- The number "looks" smaller
- The exponent must become bigger by 3

$8.5 \times 10^9 \text{ g}$

8.5 Gg $8.5 \times 10^6 \text{ kg}$

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Changing the Prefix

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Conversions powers of 10

- How many centimeters are in 6.8 meters?
- $1 \text{ m} = 1 \times 10^2 \text{ cm}$
 - (or $1 \text{ cm} = 1 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m}$)
- $6.8 \text{ m} = 6.8 \times 10^2 \text{ cm}$
 - and you can say 680 if you'd prefer

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Two steps

- How many cm are in 5 km?
- Work with each prefix
 - $1 \text{ km} = 1 \times 10^3 \text{ m}$
 - $1 \text{ cm} = 1 \times 10^{-2} \text{ m}$
 - the two are 5 places apart



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Watch Directions!

- Decision: How many cm are in 5 km?
- is it 5×10^5 or 5×10^{-5}
- a lot or only a part of one?
- 500,000 or 0.00005
- $5 \times 10^5 \text{ cm}$ in 5 km

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