

Imperial and metric measurements

In Britain we use a mixture of **imperial** and **metric measurements**. Imperial measurements are the old measurements, such as **feet, inches, ounces and gallons**.

Length

We often use **miles** to measure long distances on the roads. In the rest of Europe, **kilometres** are used. A road sign of 50 on roads in Britain means that the speed limit on that road is **50 miles per hour (mph)**.



When we talk about our **height**, it's usually in feet and inches. But we sometimes give it in metres - in a passport, for example.

- **1 mile is longer than 1 kilometre (50 miles is equal to 80 kilometres)**
- **1 metre is just over a yard**

Weight

Old recipe books usually give ingredients in the imperial measurement **pounds (lb)** and **ounces (oz)**. But modern recipe books often give ingredients in **grams** (or in both **grams and pounds and ounces**).

We usually give our body weight in Britain in **stones** and **pounds**. But we weigh our luggage at the airport in **kilograms (kg)**.

- **1 ounce (oz) is about 28 grams (g)**
- **1 pound (lb) is less than half a kilogram (kg)**

Capacity

We used to buy petrol in the imperial measurement **gallons**. Now we buy petrol in **litres**. When Britain changed from imperial to metric measurements beer and milk were still sold in **pints**.

- **1 pint is just over half a litre**
- **1 litre is about a quarter of a gallon**

