

Converting between metric units of length

To convert between metric units you need to multiply or divide by 10, 100 or 1,000.

Example 1: cm to mm



A piece of wood is 6 cm wide. How many mm is that?

Each cm is equal to 10 mm. So 6 cm will be $10 \times 6 = 60$ mm.

$$1,000 \text{ mm} = 100 \text{ cm} = 1 \text{ m}$$

Example 2: cm to m

Jackie is 172 cm tall. How tall is she in m?

You're going from a smaller unit (**cm**) to a larger one (**m**). The number of metres will be **less than** the number of cm. So it will be a **division** calculation.

There are 100 cm in 1 m, so you need to divide by 100:
 $172 \text{ cm} \div 100 = 1.72 \text{ m}$.

