



Measuring lengths key words

length	The measurement of something from one end to the other. Words like width, distance, height, diameter and thickness also involve finding a length.
millimetre/ mm	Unit for measuring tiny lengths - for example, the thickness of cardboard one thousandth of a metre . mm is the abbreviation.
centimetre/ cm	Unit for measuring small lengths - for example, the length of a pencil one hundredth of a metre . cm is the abbreviation.
metre/ m	Unit for measuring long lengths - for example, the width of a room m is the abbreviation.
kilometre/ km	Unit for measuring longer lengths - for example, distances. It means 'one thousand metres'. km is the abbreviation.
measuring instrument	You use measuring instruments to measure length. Tape measure, ruler and trundle wheel are types of measuring instrument.
scale	All measuring instruments have a scale. You read off the markers on a scale to find the length of objects.
division	The individual markers on scales. For example, a 30-cm ruler will be divided into marked centimetre and unmarked millimetre divisions.

Tip

Have you noticed the similar prefixes on some words? Here are their meanings:

- **millimetre** - the prefix **milli** means one thousandth
- **millimetre** - one thousandth of a metre
- **centimetre** - the prefix **centi** means one hundredth
- **centimetre** - one hundredth of a metre
- **kilometre** - the prefix **kilo** means one thousand
- **kilometre** - one thousand metres