



Measuring lengths

How long is this nail?



The distance between one end of the nail and the other is 3 cm.

This is the length of the nail.

Length is the measurement of something from one end to the other.

You measure length all the time. For example:

- the thickness of some loft insulation is 370 mm
- the length of your pencil is 14 cm
- the width of your bedroom is 2 m
- the distance from your house to the train station is 3 km

Did you notice that you can use different words, like **width** or **distance**, to describe the same thing - length?

Did you also notice the different units of measurement? Here's a reminder of the metric units for length:

Abbreviation	Full form	Meaning	Equivalent
mm	millimetre	one thousandth of a metre	10 mm = 1 cm 1,000 mm = 1 m
cm	centimetre	one hundredth of a metre	100 cm = 1 m
m	metre		1,000 m = 1 km
km	kilometre	one thousand metres	1,000 m = 1 km