



Estimating weight

If you have to estimate how heavy something is, it helps if you can compare it with the weight of a familiar object.

For example, have you ever felt the weight of a bag of sugar? If you know that a bag of sugar weighs a kilogram (1,000 g), ask yourself the following questions:

- Does this item feel heavier than a bag of sugar?
- Does this item feel lighter than a bag of sugar?
- Does this item feel about the same weight as a bag of sugar?

Then:

1. Find a set of kitchen scales (digital or mechanical).
2. Select some objects around your home, or college.
3. Use the questions above to compare them to the weight of a bag of sugar.
4. Complete the table below with your estimate.
5. Weigh the objects using the scales. How close were your estimates?

Tip

Make sure that the scales are set to zero before you start weighing.

Object	Do you think this weighs more, less or about the same as a kilogram (1,000 g)?	Estimated weight in metric units	Actual weight in metric units
Apple	less than a kg	100 g	150 g

How good were your estimates? Were they too high or too low? Did you choose anything that was too light or too heavy to measure on your set of scales?