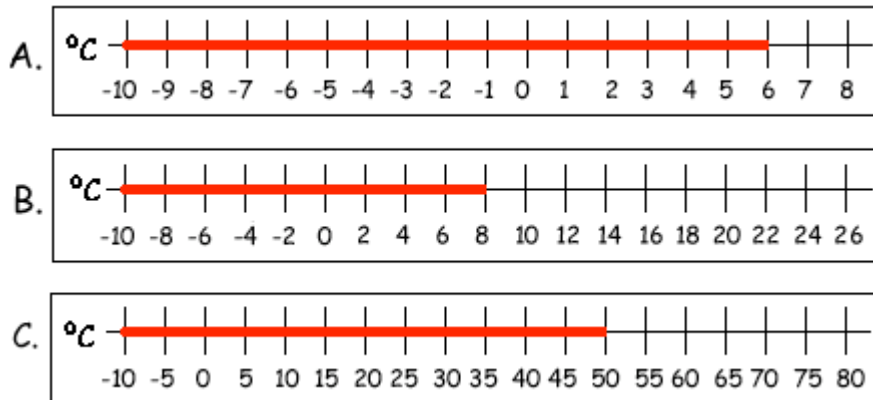


Reading scales

Most thermometers (temperature measurers) show the temperature **marked on a scale**. Each division on the scale represents the same number of **degrees**.



The first thing to do when reading a thermometer is to **check the scale**. The three thermometers shown above use different scales:

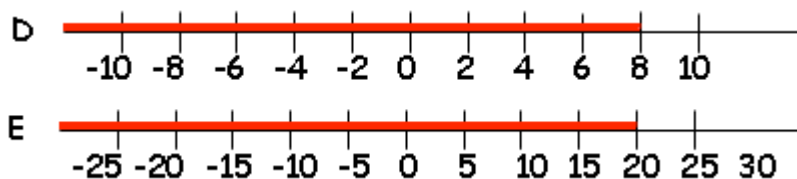
- Each division on A represents 1 degree. It is showing 6°C .
- Each division on B represents 2 degrees. It is showing 8°C .
- Each division on C represents 5 degrees. It is showing 50°C .

If you look only at the **red line**, rather than reading the scale, it's easy to get a wrong reading.

Example 1: 8° on scale B looks **lower** than 6°C on scale A.

Example 2: -3°C on scale A looks **higher** than 10°C on scale C.

Now look at these two thermometers:



Although the zero on each of these two thermometers is in the same position, and the divisions are the same distance apart, they show very different temperatures. The scale on D is marked in 2s and E in 5s, so although the red lines seem to be the same length, the temperature shown on E (20°C) is much higher than that shown on D (8°C).