

## Common Metric Prefixes From Smallest to Largest

Prefix	Symbol	Exponential	Word	Number (multiply by)
nano-	n	$10^{-9}$	billionth	0.000 000 001
micro-	$\mu$	$10^{-6}$	millionth	0.000 001
milli-	m	$10^{-3}$	thousandth	0.001
centi-	c	$10^{-2}$	hundredth	0.01
deci-	d	$10^{-1}$	tenth	0.1
deca-	d	10	ten	10
hecto-	h	$10^2$	hundred	100
kilo-	k	$10^3$	thousand	1000
mega-	M	$10^6$	million	1,000,000
giga-	G	$10^9$	billion	1,000,000,000

### Some comparisons . . .

Remember that a meter about the length of a person's arm.

A nanometer is *one billionth* of a meter. Just how tiny is that? Think of it this way: There are as many nanometers in an inch as there are inches in 400 miles!

An ant's eye is about 50 micrometers.

The dime is about 1 millimeter thick. (A millimeter is one million times larger than a nanometer!)

A centimeter is about the width of a popsicle stick.

### Did you know . . .

**Mega** comes from the Greek *megas* meaning "great, large, or mighty."

**Giga** is from the Greek *gigas* meaning "giant."

**Kilo** comes from the Greek *khilioi* meaning 1,000.

