



## Eleven Plus Maths How To Do - The Metric System Explained

It was Napoleon Bonapart who changed the whole system of weights and measures. His scientists started with a hollow cube. The cube had measurements of 1 centimetre.

There was now a standard length  
of 1 centimetre (1cm)

If the hollow cube was filled with water the mass or weight of the water was 1 gram (1g)  
This gave a standard for mass.

The amount of water in the hollow cube was 1 millilitre (1ml). This was now the standard measure for capacity.

Length mass and volume were now related.

1cm had a mass of 1g and a capacity of 1ml.

1000cm (1km) 1000g (1kg) 1000ml (1l)

Length weight and capacity are all measured in metric measure, which means they are measured in multiple's of 10.

1 10 100 1000

It is useful to remember the roots of three words used in metric measurement.

centimetre. "Cent" comes from a Latin word meaning 100. Whenever you see "cent" in a word it tells you straight away that the amount is 100.

millimetre } or "mil" comes from a Latin  
millilitre } word meaning 1000

kilometre } "kilo" comes from a Greek  
kilogram } word meaning 1000