

UNITS OF MEASURE

Identifying Units of Measure

When you need to measure an object, you must decide if you are:

- ✓ Measuring in length, weight, or capacity
- ✓ Choosing the unit that makes sense to measure the object
- ✓ Measuring in the customary system or the metric system

The customary system measures in these units:

Length: **inch (in.):** about the length of a pen cap

foot (ft): about the length of a textbook from top



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Example:

Which customary system unit would you use to measure the distance from your school to your house?

- inches
- tons
- miles
- gallons

Think about what needs to be measured, the distance between two places. Now you know you need a unit of length, but inches is too small of a unit for longer distances.

The correct answer here would be c) miles.

The metric system measures in these units:

Length: millimeter (mm): about the thickness of a piece of string
centimeter (cm): about the width of your fingernail
meter (m): a little more than a yard
kilometer (km): a little more than half a mile

Weight: gram (g): about the weight of a paperclip
kilogram (kg): about the weight of a textbook

Capacity: liter (L): a little more than a quart

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or

The correct answer here would be a) grams.

