

Metric prefixes¹ are pretty easy to understand and very handy for metric conversions. You don't have to know the nature of a unit to convert, for example, from *kilo-unit* to *mega-unit*. All metric prefixes are powers of 10. The most commonly used prefixes are highlighted in the table.

Prexis	Symbol	Factor
yotta	Y	$10^{24} = 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000$
zetta	Z	$10^{21} = 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000$
exa	E	$10^{18} = 1,000,000,000,000,000,000$
peta	P	$10^{15} = 1,000,000,000,000,000$
tera	T	$10^{12} = 1,000,000,000,000$
giga	G	$10^9 = 1,000,000,000$
mega	M	$10^6 = 1,000,000$
kilo	k	$10^3 = 1,000$
hecto	h	$10^2 = 100$
deka	da	$10^1 = 10$
deci	d	$10^{-1} = 0.1$
centi	c	$10^{-2} = 0.01$
milli	m	$10^{-3} = 0.001$
micro	μ	$10^{-6} = 0.000,001$
nano	n	$10^{-9} = 0.000,000,001$
pico	p	$10^{-12} = 0,000,000,000,001$
femto	f	$10^{-15} = 0.000,000,000,000,001$
atto	a	$10^{-18} = 0.000,000,000,000,000,001$
zepto	z	$10^{-21} = 0.000,000,000,000,000,000,001$
yocto	y	$10^{-24} = 0.000,000,000,000,000,000,000,001$

Most people even in the countries where metric system is used only know the most important metric prefixes like 'kilo' and 'milli'. They are very handy for understanding metric conversions. The prefixes like 'zepto' or 'yotta' are very specific and used mostly in science.

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