

How many pints in a litre?

1. Read the definition from the glossary and list five things that can be measured.

EXAMPLE:

You can measure how heavy a bag is.

measure:
discover how long, how cold,
how far, etc. something is

2. Match each word in the box with one of the nouns.

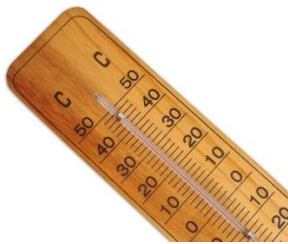
chilly far light long narrow shallow slow tall

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| a) width narrow | e) length long |
| b) depth shallow | f) height tall |
| c) speed slow | g) weight light |
| d) temperature chilly | h) distance far |

3. Add opposites to the adjectives in ex. 2.

Possible answers: **narrow – wide, shallow – deep, slow – fast, chilly – warm, long – short, tall – short, light – heavy, far – close/near**

4. Look at the photos and answer the questions.



thermometer



speedometer



measuring jug



tape measure



scales

- What can you measure with each of these items? **thermometer – temperature; speedometer – speed; measuring jug – weight, volume; tape measure – length, height, width, distance, depth; scales – weight**

How many pints in a litre?

- When was the last time you used any of these items? Why did you need them?
- Do you know any apps which can be used instead of these items? How should you use them?

5. You are going to watch a video. Look at the words and discuss what the video might be about.

- measure
- Celsius
- Fahrenheit
- the US

6. Watch the [video](https://youtu.be/47oxzNalhGM) [https://youtu.be/47oxzNalhGM] and check your ideas in ex. 5.

Possible answer: The US still uses the Fahrenheit scale to measure temperature, even though most of the world has switched to the Celsius scale.

[Before the next exercise make sure your students understand the word 'convert', as in 'convert Celsius to Fahrenheit'.]

7. Watch the [video](#) again and decide if the sentences are true or false. Correct the false sentences. Remember that the programme is aimed at American viewers!

- a) People in the US wouldn't be surprised if you told them that it's 25 degrees on a summer day. **F [00:07] They would be surprised.**
- b) The Fahrenheit scale was invented after the Celsius scale. **F [00:59] It was invented before the Celsius scale.**
- c) Britain converted to the Celsius scale after the British colonized America. **T [01:48]**
- d) Scientists from outside the US who want to participate in American projects have to convert metric measurements to non-metric measurements. **F [02:38] American scientists have to convert non-metric measurements to metric measurements.**
- e) Most meteorologists around the world use tools which are based on the Celsius scale. **T [03:04]**

How many pints in a litre?

8. Discuss the questions.

- Do you think that the US and other countries which use the non-metric (imperial) system should adopt the metric system? Why/Why not?
- What difficulties would a change in the measurement system bring to a country?
- Do you use the metric or non-metric system of measurement? How well do you know the other system (e.g. units of weight or length)? Can you convert units from one system to the other?
- Have you ever made a mistake because of different measuring systems?

unit:
standard measure which is used to express sizes, amounts, etc., e.g. kilometre or mile

9. Read the stories and choose the correct words.

- An exchange student in Chicago wanted to buy a desk. He **converted/measured** the space in his room and decided that the desk's **long/length** should be around 140 cm. He ordered a desk which he thought was 139 cm **long/length**. When the desk was delivered, it didn't fit in the room.
- An American woman was driving in Argentina at the **speedometer/speed** of 49 mph. The limit was 50, but she got a ticket.
- A college asked a zoo to lend them a turtle. The zoo agreed, but they said that the college needed to make a special cage for the turtle. The zoo also said that the turtle's **weight/weigh** was 250 kg. The engineers from the college built a cage but the turtle destroyed it and escaped.
- An American teenager was making soup. The recipe said to use one litre of water. He didn't know how much one litre was, so he used his **scales/measuring jug**. Half an hour later, there was no water in the pot and the vegetables were burnt.
- A Spanish tourist in the US bought a big suitcase to take all the presents she bought back home. The label said that the suitcase was 12" deep. She checked with the airline and they told her that the **deep/depth** of a suitcase



How many pints in a litre?

can be up to 25 cm. She didn't convert 12" to centimetres because she didn't know that " was a **unit/measure**. When she was checking in at the airport, an agent measured the suitcase and it turned out that it was too **deep/depth**.

10. Study the table below and explain what the problem was in each story.

Then, discuss what the people could do next time to avoid the mistakes.

What needs to be measured?	metric units	non-metric units	How to convert the units
length/depth	centimetres (cm)	inches (")	1" = 2.54 cm
speed	kilometres per hour (kph)	miles per hour (mph)	1 mph = 1.6 kph
weight	kilos/kilograms (kg)	pounds (lb)	1 kg = 2.2 lb
volume of liquid	litres (l)	pints (pt)	1 l = 2.1 pt

EXAMPLE: *The length of the desk was probably in inches, as the student was in the US, but he measured the space in centimetres. 139 inches are more than 139 centimetres, so the desk didn't fit. Next time the student should convert centimetres to inches. He could also use a non-metric measuring tape, or order furniture from a country which uses the metric system.*

Possible answers:

- b) She got the ticket because Argentinians measure speed in kilometres per hour, and the speed of 50 kilometres per hour is not as fast as 50 miles per hour. Next time she should use a different speedometer, for example on her phone. She could also learn to convert miles per hour to kilometres per hour.
- c) The turtle weighed 250 kilos, but the engineers probably thought that it weighed 250 pounds. A turtle that weighs 250 kilos is heavier than one that weighs 250 pounds, so the cage was too small or too weak for the turtle. That's why it escaped. Next time the zoo and the engineers should make sure that they use the same units.

How many pints in a litre?

- d) His measuring jug didn't use litres but pints, so there wasn't enough water in the soup because one pint is only half a litre. Next time he should convert litres to pints, get a metric measuring jug or use a recipe with units he knows.
- e) 12 inches are more than 25 centimetres, which is why the woman's suitcase was too big. Next time she should check what the symbol " is, and convert the units from non-metric to metric. She could also ask the airline about luggage limits in the non-metric system.