

Math with Scientific Notation

1

Prefixes You Must Know

Power of 10	Exponent	Prefix	Symbol	Common Name
9	10 ⁹	giga	G	billion
6	10 ⁶	mega	M	million
3	10 ³	kilo	k	thousand
2	10 ²	hecto	h	hundred
1	10 ¹	deca	da	ten
-1	10 ⁻¹	deci	d	tenth
-2	10 ⁻²	centi	c	hundredth
-3	10 ⁻³	milli	m	thousandth
-6	10 ⁻⁶	micro	μ	millionth
-9	10 ⁻⁹	nano	n	billionth

2

Time to Forget Henry

- King Henry Did Usually Drink Chocolate Milk.. but that's for kids.



3

Scientific Notation

- A number in scientific notation looks like...

4.25 x 10³ m
- Number
 - Must start with an integer from 1 to 9
 - 0.21 x 10² isn't quite right
- Power of 10
- Units
 - one of the most important parts

4

Easier to Read

300,000,000.m/s

- the speed of light is 300,000,000 meters each second
- Find the decimal
- Move the decimal - count how far it goes
- Use that for the exponent

5

Which is Easier to Read?

300,000,000 m/s or..

$3 \times 10^8 \text{ m/s}$

6

Easier to Read

0.0000065 m

- Really small numbers work too
- Find the decimal
- Move the decimal - count how far it goes
- This time, the exponent is negative

7

Which is Appropriate?

0.0000065 m or..

$6.5 \times 10^{-6} \text{ m}$ or..

$6.5 \mu\text{m}$

8

Not as Far To Go

$8500 \times 10^6 \text{ g}$

- This number isn't quite in scientific notation
- Find the decimal
- Move the decimal & count how far it goes
- Change the exponent by that much

9

$8500 \times 10^6 \text{ g}$

- You moved the decimal 3 times
- The number "looks" smaller
- The exponent must become bigger by 3

$8.5 \times 10^9 \text{ g}$

8.5 Gg $8.5 \times 10^6 \text{ kg}$

10

Practice

11

Change these into scientific notation

38,600 m	3.86×10^4 m
157,300 s	1.573×10^5 s
147 cm	1.47×10^2 cm
93,000,000 miles	9.3×10^7 miles

12

Change these into scientific notation

0.715 kg	3.86×10^4 m
0.00083 g	1.573×10^5 s
0.000025 s	1.47×10^2 cm
0.00083 m	9.3×10^7 miles

13

Change these OUT OF scientific notation

9.3×10^6 kg	9,300,000 kg
3.75×10^2 m	375 m
8×10^4 N	80,000 N
2.39×10^{18} s	2,390,000,000,000,000,000

14

Change these OUT OF scientific notation

4.8×10^{-5} kg	0.000 048 kg
7.21×10^{-3} m	0.007 21 m
3×10^{-2} N	0.03 N
5.9×10^{-9} s	0.000 000 059 s

15

Change these into the required power of ten
(does not require scientific notation)

(10^3)	38,600 m	38.6 km
(10^3)	1,450 g	1.4 kg
(10^6)	540,000 Watts	0.54 MW
(10^{-3})	0.0253 s	25.3 ms

16

Changing the
Prefix

17


Conversions
powers of 10

- How many centimeters are in 6.8 meters?
- $1\text{ m} = 1 \times 10^2\text{ cm}$
 - (or $1\text{ cm} = 1 \times 10^{-2}\text{ m}$)
- $6.8\text{ m} = 6.8 \times 10^2\text{ cm}$
 - and you can say 680 if you'd prefer

18

Two steps

- How many cm are in 5 km?
- Work with each prefix
 - $1\text{ km} = 1 \times 10^3\text{ m}$
 - $1\text{ cm} = 1 \times 10^{-2}\text{ m}$
 - the two are 5 places apart



19

Watch Directions!

- Decision: How many cm are in 5 km?
- is it 5×10^5 or 5×10^{-5}
- a lot or only a part of one?
- 500,000 or 0.00005
- $5 \times 10^5\text{ cm}$ in 5 km

20

Math with Exponents

21

Multiplication

- What is 640,000 times 20,000?
- $(6.4 \times 10^5) \times (2 \times 10^4)$
 - multiply the values ($6.4 \times 2 = 12.8$)
 - Add the exponents $5 + 4 = 9$
 - state your answer 12.8×10^9

22

Division

- $(6.4 \times 10^5) / (2 \times 10^4)$
- divide the values ($6.4 / 2 = 3.2$)
- subtract the exponents $5 - 4 = 1$
- state your answer 3.2×10^1
 - Unless you MUST use scientific notation, simplify your answer to 32

23

Practice

$$(7.2 \times 10^4) \times (3 \times 10^3)$$

$$21.6 \times 10^7$$

$$2.16 \times 10^8$$

$$(4.2 \times 10^5) \times (6 \times 10^{-2})$$

$$25.2 \times 10^3$$

$$2.52 \times 10^4$$

$$(6.3 \times 10^4) / (3 \times 10^3)$$

$$2.1 \times 10^1$$

$$2.1 \times 10^1$$

$$(4.8 \times 10^5) / (6 \times 10^{-2})$$

$$0.8 \times 10^7$$

$$8.0 \times 10^6$$

24

What is...
1 dollar plus 1 dime?

- Is it 2 of anything?
- 1.10 dollars
- 11 dimes
- How do you get these answers?



25

Addition

- $(6.4 \times 10^5) + (2 \times 10^4)$
- Pick one to change
- $(64 \times 10^4) + (2 \times 10^4)$
- 66×10^4
 - or 6.6×10^5

26

Practice

$$(3.5 \times 10^4) - (2.8 \times 10^3)$$

$$3.22 \times 10^4$$

$$(5 \times 10^6) + (0.51 \times 10^8)$$

$$5.6 \times 10^7$$

$$(6.0 \times 10^{-3}) + (5.0 \times 10^{-4})$$

$$6.5 \times 10^{-3}$$

$$(5.0 \times 10^9) + (3.0 \times 10^{-1})$$

$$5,000,000,000.3$$

Does that last one seem strange to solve?

27
