

Doing Metric Right

Ask an engineer a question, get an engineering answer. So be careful what questions you ask engineers. Don't ask how to make a conversion to metric easy. The answer will be perfect for people (like engineers) who already know both systems and can't figure out why people don't just switch.

I will not give the engineering answer but only the simple answer. In keeping with the idea of approximating everything possible, we approximate metric units as below.

Each approximation is off by at most 10% and most are much better. If you use this table, you will get a feel for the metric system and appreciate its ease.¹

Cut out this table and put it on your refrigerator. Copy and distribute this table as you like in any medium.

Weight

30 Grams	= 1 Ounce
1 Kilogram	= 2 Pounds
1 Metric ton	= 1 Ton

Length

5 Centimeters	= 2 Inches
1 Meter	= 1 Yard
3 Kilometers	= 2 Miles

Volume

5 Milliliters	= 1 Teaspoon
15 Milliliters	= 1 Tablespoon
30 Milliliters	= 1 Fluid ounce
250 Milliliters	= 1 Cup
500 Milliliters	= 1 Pint
1 Liter	= 1 Quart

¹ Thomas Jefferson tried to get Congress to adopt the then new decimal metric system. He succeeded only in getting a decimal monetary system to replace farthings, pence, shillings and pounds.