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Metric News: Points to Remember

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METRIC NEWS: POINTS TO REMEMBER

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1. The letters SI which appear frequently with metric measurements refer to the universal abbreviation for *le Systeme International d'Unites* (the International System of Units).
2. The trend seems to be to spell *metre* and *litre* rather than meter and liter.
3. In pronunciation the accent is on the prefix, such as in kilowatt.
4. All prefixes, except tera, giga, and mega, use a small letter as a symbol.
5. The prefix and unit name should not be separated by a hyphen (kilometre, *not* kilo-metre).
6. There is no period after the symbol unless it is at the end of a sentence.
7. All symbols should be used in the singular form (15 metres = 15 m, *not* 15 metres = 15 ms).
8. SI unit names do not start with a capital letter unless they are at the beginning of a sentence.
9. The numerical value associated with a symbol should be separated by a space (16 mm, *not* 16mm).
10. Use a space to separate large numbers into groups of three. Do not use a comma (1 020 123 *not* 1,020,123).
11. Avoid the use of fractions. Express a partial unit as a decimal with a zero before the decimal marker (0.25 km and *not* $\frac{1}{4}$ km).
12. Use decimal notations for computation and recording measurements in the metric system.
13. A prefix should not be used alone (kilogram, *not* kilo).
14. The use of m^2 and m^3 is preferred to square metres and cubic metres.
15. The word "mass" is used in preference to "weight." Weight is a force and requires force units. Grams and kilograms measure "mass" while newtons measure "force." Use "What is the mass?" rather than "What is the weight?" if you are using grams or kilograms.
16. Metric measurements should be recorded as single units. For example, 1 m and 41 cm should be 1.41 m or 141 cm.