

Choosing and converting metric units of length

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

Millimetres, centimetres, metres and kilometres each suit a different size of object. We pick the unit that gives a sensible-sized number.

→ A pencil suits cm (about 18 cm).

→ A corridor suits m (about 30 m).

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

CONVERT 7.3 M TO CM

- 1 Decide direction: from m to cm means going down the ladder so multiply.
- 2 Each metre holds 100 cm so multiply 7.3 by 100.
- 3 7.3 becomes **730** and the decimal point stays put while digits step two places.

ANSWER KEY

a) 730 cm

b) 4.2 m

c) 620 m

Q1: 730 cm

Q2: 4.2 m

Q3: 3,000 cm

Q4: 620 m

Q5: 0.0125 km

a) **Always** — Each metre holds exactly 100 cm so the rule is fixed.

b) **Always** — 2500 mm equals 2.5 m exactly so it is always true in this case but the statement uses sometimes.

c) **Never** — A pencil is far too small for km to give a sensible number.

d) **Always** — Because 1000 mm make one metre so digits step three columns.

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: 0.07628 km

S2: 0.05969 km

S3: 3.29 km

S4: 4.95 m

S5: 7.17 m