REVIEW

METRIC

PREFIXES

COMMON METRIC PREFIXES

Small values:	letter	power of 10	
deci	d	10^{-1}	one-tenth
centi	c	10^{-2}	one-hundredth
milli	m	10^{-3}	one-thousandth
micro	μ or mc	10^{-6}	one-millionth
nano	n	10^{-9}	one-billionth
pico	p	10^{-12}	one-trillionth
Large values:			
deca	da	10^{1}	ten
hecto	h	10^{2}	hundred
kilo	k	10^{3}	thousand
Mega	M	10^{6}	million
Giga	G	10^{9}	billion
Tera	T	10^{12}	trillion

These prefixes may be used with length (meters), mass (grams), liquid volume (liters), time (seconds) and other units (bytes).

Examples: Think about the magnitude of each of these.

- He ran a 5K race in 40 minutes. *5K means 5000 meters (~3.1 mi)*

- I have 2.5 gigs on my phone. *2.5×10^9 bytes of memory*

- Sound travels at 300,000 km each second. *(~671 million mi/sec)   300,000km = $3 \times 10^5 \times 10^3$ m*

- An ant has a mass of 3 mg. *$3mg = 3 \times 10^{-3}g = 0.003g$*

- A computer can multiply two 10-digit numbers in 1ns. *(nano second) 10^{-9}*

- She takes 1000mg of fish oil daily. *$1000(10^{-3})g = 1g$*

- The medicine comes in 10cc vials. *cc = cubic centimeter = ml (for liquids)*

- One µgram per kg of body weight is a lethal dose of ricin. *↑ micro (10^{-6})*

Have you heard statements like these?

- Pascal micro manages everything in the office.

- Grace needs mega bucks to purchase the house she wants

Guess the answer to these:

- 2000 Mockingbirds = *2 kilo mockingbirds*

- One-millionth of a fish = *10^{-6} of a fish = microfish*

- One million phones = *10^6 phones = mega phone*