


1.2 SI Measures of Length

SI is an abbreviation for "Le Systeme International d'Unites". It is an updated form of the **metric system** that has been adopted by many countries including Canada.

Common SI units of length include:

SI Unit	Abbreviation	Referent	Relationship Between Units
Millimetre	mm	Thickness of a dime 	
Centimetre	cm	Width of a child's finger	1 cm = 10 mm
Metre	m	Width of a doorway	1 m = 100 cm 1 m = 1000 mm
Kilometre	km	Distance walked in 15 minutes	1 km = 1000 m. 1 km = 100 000 cm 1 km = 1 000 000 mm

Example: Make the following conversions

a)  $3\text{ m} = \underline{300}\text{ cm}$

$$\cancel{3\text{ m}} \times \frac{100\text{ cm}}{\cancel{1\text{ m}}}$$

b)  $9\text{ cm} = \underline{90}\text{ mm}$

$$\cancel{9\text{ cm}} \times \frac{10\text{ mm}}{\cancel{1\text{ cm}}}$$

c)  $5.2\text{ km} = \underline{5200}\text{ m}$

$$\cancel{5.2\text{ km}} \times \frac{1000\text{ m}}{\cancel{1\text{ km}}}$$

d)  $0.4\text{ km} = \underline{40000}\text{ cm}$

$$\cancel{0.4\text{ km}} \times \frac{100\ 000\text{ cm}}{\cancel{1\text{ km}}}$$

e)  $850\text{ m} = \underline{0.85}\text{ km}$

$$\cancel{850\text{ m}} = \frac{1\text{ km}}{\cancel{1000\text{ m}}}$$

f)  $35\text{ mm} = \underline{0.035}\text{ m}$

$$\cancel{35\text{ mm}} \times \frac{1\text{ m}}{\cancel{1000\text{ mm}}}$$