

1. Unit Conversions

Unit Conversions

- You **must** follow the same method shown below.
- We can convert from one unit to another by using relationships that are equivalent to each other then arranged as a ratio. The ratio is called the **conversion factor**.
- For example, with time we know the following relationships:

Relationship	Conversion Factor
1 min = 60 s	$\frac{1 \text{ min}}{60 \text{ s}}$ and $\frac{60 \text{ s}}{1 \text{ min}}$
1 hour = 60 min	$\frac{1 \text{ hour}}{60 \text{ min}}$ and $\frac{60 \text{ min}}{1 \text{ hour}}$
24 hours = 1 day	$\frac{1 \text{ day}}{24 \text{ hours}}$ and $\frac{24 \text{ hours}}{1 \text{ day}}$

Note that the values in the ratios are equal to each other (i.e. 1 min = 60 s). Therefore, the ratio really has a value equal to 1. Multiplying any factor by the conversion factor is equivalent to multiplying by 1 and will not change the value of the expression.

The general formula for solving problems using the conversion factor method:

$$\text{Unknown Amount} = (\text{initial amount given in the problem}) \times (\text{conversion factor})$$

Examples:

1. How many seconds are there in 49.56 minutes?

$$49.56 \text{ minutes} \times \frac{60 \text{ seconds}}{1 \text{ minute}} = 2973.6 \text{ seconds} = 2974 \text{ seconds (4 sig figs)}$$

2. How many hours are there in 448.2 minutes?

$$448.2 \text{ min} \times \frac{1 \text{ hr}}{60 \text{ min}} = 7.470 \text{ hr}$$

3. How many minutes are there in 44 days? (2 steps)

$$44 \text{ days} \times \frac{24 \text{ hr}}{1 \text{ day}} \times \frac{60 \text{ min}}{1 \text{ hr}} = 63000 \text{ min}$$

* don't
count toward
sig figs!

4. How many seconds are there in 3 days? (3 steps)

$$3 \text{ days} \times \frac{24 \text{ hrs}}{1 \text{ day}} \times \frac{60 \text{ min}}{1 \text{ hr}} \times \frac{60 \text{ sec}}{1 \text{ min}} = 259,200 \text{ s} = 3 \times 10^5 \text{ s}$$

5. How old are you in seconds?

$$16 \text{ years} \times \frac{365.25 \text{ day}}{1 \text{ year}} \times \frac{24 \text{ hr}}{1 \text{ day}} \times \frac{60 \text{ min}}{1 \text{ hr}} \times \frac{60 \text{ sec}}{1 \text{ min}} = 5.0 \times 10^8 \text{ sec}$$

Note:

- All the units cancel each other except the desired unit (s).
- The expression "3 days" is multiplied by three conversion factors that are all equivalent to "1". The final answer changed because the "expression" has a different unit, but the actual **value** is still the same.

6. If the density of sea water is 1.2 g/mL, calculate the volume of 45g of sea water.

$$45 \text{ g} \times \frac{1 \text{ mL}}{1.2 \text{ g}} = 37.5 \text{ mL} = 38 \text{ mL (2 sig figs)}$$

7. If a car is moving at 50.0 km/h, calculate how far (in metres) the car moves in 5.00 seconds.

$$5.00 \text{ sec} \times \frac{50.0 \text{ km}}{1 \text{ hr}} \times \frac{1 \text{ hr}}{60 \text{ min}} \times \frac{1 \text{ min}}{60 \text{ sec}} \times \frac{1000 \text{ m}}{1 \text{ km}} = 69.4 \text{ m}$$

**ALWAYS INCLUDE THE UNITS FOR ALL THE CALCULATIONS WE DO IN CHEMISTRY.
DO NOT BE TEMPTED TO EXCLUDE THEM!**

More Examples:

8. How many minutes are there in 1.67 week?

$$1.67 \text{ week} \times \frac{7 \text{ days}}{1 \text{ week}} \times \frac{24 \text{ hr}}{1 \text{ day}} \times \frac{60 \text{ min}}{1 \text{ hr}} = 1.68 \times 10^4 \text{ min}$$

9. How many centimeters are in 21.598 km?

$$21.598 \text{ km} \times \frac{1000 \text{ m}}{1 \text{ km}} \times \frac{100 \text{ cm}}{1 \text{ m}} = 2.1598 \times 10^6 \text{ cm}$$

10. If you have 45 dozen eggs, how many eggs do you have?

$$45 \text{ doz.} \times \frac{12 \text{ eggs}}{1 \text{ doz.}} = 540 \text{ egg}$$

11. If a car can move 50.0 km/h, how far can the car go in 3.2675 hours?

$$3.2675 \text{ hr} \times \frac{50.0 \text{ km}}{1 \text{ hr}} = 163 \text{ km}$$

12. One molecule of phosphorus has 4 atoms. How many molecules are there in 448 atoms of phosphorus?

$$448 \text{ atoms} \times \frac{1 \text{ molecule}}{4 \text{ atoms}} = 112 \text{ molecules.}$$

13. If one mole of carbon has a mass of 12.0 g, what is the mass of 4.7 moles of carbon?

$$4.7 \text{ mole} \times \frac{12.0 \text{ g}}{1 \text{ mole}} = 56 \text{ g}$$

14. The density of aluminum is 2.7 g/mL. What is the volume of 7.4 g of aluminum?

$$7.4 \text{ g} \times \frac{1 \text{ mL}}{2.7 \text{ g}} = 2.7 \text{ mL}$$

15. If a car averages 60.0 km/h, how long will it take to cover 57 km?

$$57 \text{ km} \times \frac{1 \text{ hr}}{60.0 \text{ km}} = 0.95 \text{ hr}$$

"Only those who have the patience to do simple things perfectly will acquire the skill to do difficult things easily."

~ Johann von Schiller (German philosopher)

B. Multiple Unit Conversions

16. How many minutes are there in 3 days?

$$3 \text{ days} \times \frac{24 \text{ hours}}{1 \text{ day}} \times \frac{60 \text{ min}}{1 \text{ hr}} = 4320 \text{ min} \\ = 4 \times 10^3 \text{ min}$$

17. The energy needed to melt 1 kg of ice requires 334 kJ. The largest known iceberg has a volume of about $3.1 \times 10^{13} \text{ m}^3$. How much heat was required to melt the iceberg if 1.0 m^3 of ice has a mass of 917 kg?

$$3.1 \times 10^{13} \text{ m}^3 \times \frac{917 \text{ kg}}{1.0 \text{ m}^3} \times \frac{334 \text{ kJ}}{1 \text{ kg}} = 9.5 \times 10^{18} \text{ kJ}$$

18. How far does a car go in 10.00 seconds if it is moving at 50.00 km/h?

$$10.00 \text{ sec} \times \frac{50.00 \text{ km}}{1 \text{ hr}} \times \frac{1 \text{ hr}}{60 \text{ min}} \times \frac{1 \text{ min}}{60 \text{ sec}} = 0.1389 \text{ km}$$

19. If 1 yard = 3 feet, 1 foot = 12 inches, and 1 inch = 2.54 cm, how many meters are in 50.00 yards?

$$50.00 \text{ yards} \times \frac{3 \cancel{\text{ft}}}{1 \text{ yard}} \times \frac{12 \cancel{\text{inches}}}{1 \cancel{\text{ft}}} \times \frac{2.54 \text{ cm}}{1 \cancel{\text{inch}}} \times \frac{1 \text{ m}}{1000 \cancel{\text{cm}}} = 45.72 \text{ m}$$

20. A sprinter can run 100. metres in 10.0 seconds. How fast is the sprinter moving in km/h?

$$\frac{100. \cancel{\text{m}}}{10.0 \cancel{\text{s}}} \times \frac{1 \text{ km}}{1000 \cancel{\text{m}}} \times \frac{60 \cancel{\text{sec}}}{1 \cancel{\text{min}}} \times \frac{60 \cancel{\text{min}}}{1 \text{ hr}} = 36.0 \text{ km/hr}$$

21. A chicken farmer wished to purchase a gift for his wife. The gift was worth 2 horses. At the local market, 3 horses were worth 5 cows, 1 cow was worth 4 hogs, 3 hogs were worth 4 goats, and 1 goat cost 9 chickens. How much was the gift going to cost the farmer who had to pay in chickens?

$$2 \cancel{\text{horses}} \times \frac{5 \cancel{\text{cows}}}{3 \cancel{\text{horses}}} \times \frac{4 \cancel{\text{hogs}}}{1 \cancel{\text{cow}}} \times \frac{4 \cancel{\text{goats}}}{3 \cancel{\text{hogs}}} \times \frac{9 \cancel{\text{chickens}}}{1 \cancel{\text{goat}}} = 160 \text{ chickens}$$

22. Try this this challenging conversion!

Suppose 1 dip = 6 dops, 1 dop = 8 daps, 1 tick = 13 tocks, and 1 tock = 10 tacks.

Convert 21.1 dips/tack² into dops/tock².

$$a) \frac{21.1 \cancel{\text{dips}}}{\cancel{\text{tack}^2}} \times \frac{6 \cancel{\text{dops}}}{1 \cancel{\text{dip}}} \times \frac{10 \cancel{\text{tock}}}{1 \cancel{\text{tock}}} \times \frac{10 \cancel{\text{tock}}}{1 \cancel{\text{tock}}} = 1.27 \times 10^4 \frac{\text{dops}}{\text{tocks}^2}$$

$$b) \frac{21.1 \cancel{\text{dips}}}{\cancel{\text{tack}^2}} \times \frac{6 \cancel{\text{dops}}}{1 \cancel{\text{dip}}} \times \frac{(10 \cancel{\text{tock}})^2}{(1 \cancel{\text{tock}})^2} = 1.27 \times 10^4 \frac{\text{dops}}{\text{tock}^2}$$

- 1) 2974 sec 2) 7.470 hr 3) 63,000 min 4) 259,200 sec 5) 9.2×10^8 sec 6) 38 mL 7) 69.4 m
 8) 1.68×10^4 min 9) 2.1598×10^6 cm 10) 540 eggs 11) 163 km 12) 112 molecules 13) 56 g
 14) 2.7 mL 15) 0.95 hr 16) 4×10^3 min 17) 9.5×10^{18} J 18) 0.1389 km 19) 45.72 m 20) 36.0 km/h
 21) 160 chickens 22) 1.27×10^4 dops/tocks²