# Measurement unit glossary

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**accurate** /∀{κ.φΥ.ρ≅τ/ *adjective*
  correct, exact and without any mistakes:
  *an accurate machine*
  *an accurate description*
  *The figures they have used are just not accurate.*
  *Her novel is an accurate reflection of life in post-war Spain.*
  *We hope to become more accurate **in** predict**ing** earthquakes.*
  NOTE: The opposite is **inaccurate**.

  **accurately** /∀{κ.φΥ.ρ≅τ.λι/ *adverb*
    *The plans should be drawn as accurately as possible, showing all the measurements.*

  **accuracy** /∀{κ.φΥ.ρ≅.σι/ *noun* [U]
    *We can predict changes with **a** surprising **degree of** accuracy.*

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**add** /{δ/ *verb* [I or T]
  to put something with something else to increase the number or amount or to improve the whole:
  *If you add* (= calculate the total of) *three and four you get seven.*

  **addition** /≅∀δΙΣ.⁼ν/ *noun* [C or U]
    *Twice a week the children are tested in basic mathematical skills such as addition* (= calculating the total of different numbers put together) *and subtraction.*
    *Most working environments are improved by **the** addition **of** (= adding) a few plants and pictures.*
    *A secretary would be **a welcome/useful** addition **to** our staff.*
    ***In** addition **to** his flat in London, he has a villa in Italy and a castle in Scotland.*

    HUMOROUS *I hear you're expecting a small addition **to** the family* (= you are going to have a baby)*!*

### Word building

| Nouns | addition |
|---|---|
| Adjectives | additional |
| Verbs | add |
| Adverbs | additionally |

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**almost** /∀O:λ.μ≅Υστ/ **US** /∀A:λ.μοΥστ/ *adverb*
  nearly:
  *She's almost thirty.*
  *It was almost six o'clock when he left.*
  *I almost wish I hadn't invited him.*
  *It'll cost almost as much to repair it as it would to buy a new one.*
  *Almost **all** the passengers on the ferry were French.*
  *They'll almost **certainly** forget to do it.*
  *The town was almost entirely destroyed during the war.*
  *We were bitten by mosquitoes almost **every** night.*
  *The boat sank almost **immediately** after it had struck the rock.*
  *Most artists find it almost **impossible** to make a living from art alone.*

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**amount** /≅∀μαΥντ/ *noun* [C]
  a collection or mass especially of something which cannot be counted:
  *They didn't deliver the right amount **of** sand.*
  *Small amounts **of** land were used for keeping animals.*
  *He paid regular amounts **of** money to a charity.*
  *I didn't expect the bill to come to this amount* (= of money)*.*
  *The new tax caused a huge amount **of** public anger.*

I had **a certain** amount **of** (= some) *difficulty finding the house.*
*You wouldn't believe* **the** *amount* **of** *trouble* (= what a lot of trouble) *I've had with this car.*
**any amount of**
> a very large amount of:
> *We had any amount of people applying for the job.*

## amount of or number of?

**Amount of** is used with uncountable nouns.

I should reduce the amount of coffee I drink.

Did you use the right amount of flour?

**Number of** is used with countable nouns.

We don't know the number of people
involved yet.

They received a large number of complaints.

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**area (PLACE)** /∀ε≅.ρι.≅/ **US** /∀ερ.ι–/ *noun* [C]
> a particular part of a place, piece of land or country:
> *All areas* **of** *the country will have some rain tonight.*
> *The area* **of** *New York to the south of Houston Street is known as Soho.*
> *Houses in* **the** *London area* (= in and around London) *are very expensive.*
> *He's an area manager* (= is responsible for business in a particular part of the country or world) *for a computer company.*
> *This is a very poor area* (= part of the town, country or world).
> *Dogs are not allowed in the children's play area.*
> **in the area/region of**
>> approximately:
>> *The repair work will cost in the area of £200.*

**area (MEASURE)** /∀ε≅.ρι.≅/ **US** /∀ερ.ι–/ *noun* [C or U]
> the size of a flat surface calculated by multiplying its length by its width:
> *the area of a rectangle*
> *Meadow Farm is 50 square kilometres* **in** *area.*

**area (SUBJECT)** /∀ε≅.ρι.≅/ **US** /∀ερ.ι–/ *noun* [C]
> a subject or activity, or a part of it:
> *Marketing is Paul's area.*
> *Software is not really my area of expertise.*

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**check (EXAMINE)** /τΣεκ/ *verb* [I or T]
> to make certain that something or someone is correct, safe or suitable by examining it or them quickly:
> *You should always check your oil, water and tyres before taking your car on a long trip.*
> *Customs stopped us and checked* (= searched) *our bags* **for** *alcohol and cigarettes.*
> *After I'd finished the exam, I checked my answers* **for** *mistakes.*
> *The doctor will call next week to check* **on** *your progress.*
> *My wife checks* **on** (= visits) *our elderly neighbour every few days to make sure that he's alright.*
> [+ (*that*)] *I always check* **(that)** *I've shut the windows before I leave the house.*
> [+ question word] *I rang them yesterday to check* **wh**en *they were arriving.*
> *He* **double-***checked all the doors* (= checked them all twice) *before leaving the house.*
> [+ *to* infinitive] *If you're near the garage, could you check* **to** *see* (= ask) *if the car's ready?*
> *If you're unsure of your legal rights, I would check* **with** (= ask) *a lawyer.*
> See also crosscheck.

**check** /τΣεκ/ *noun* [C]
> an examination of something in order to make certain that it is correct or the way it should be:
> *The soldiers gave their equipment a final check before setting off.*
> *"I can't find my keys." "Have another check* **in/through** *your jacket pockets."*

*Security* checks have become really strict at the airport.
*The police are carrying out* **spot** *checks on* (= quick examinations of a limited number of) *drivers over the Christmas period to test for alcohol levels.*
*It's my job to* **keep** *a check* **on** *stock levels.*
*I'll just* **run** *a check* **on** (= find information about) *that name for you in the computer.*

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**circumference** /σ≅∀κςμπ.φ≊ρ.≅νϖ/ **US** /σ≅ ∀κςμπ.φ≅ ‾/ *noun* [C or U]
   **1** the distance around a circle, or the distance around the widest part of a circular or round object; the line enclosing a circular space:
     *the circumference of a circle/an orange*
     *Draw a circle 30 centimetres* **in** *circumference.*
   **2 the circumference** the outside edge of an area of any size or shape

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**cross-section** /∀κρΘσ.σεκ.Σ≊ν/ **US** /∀κρΑ:σ–/ /%–∀––/ *noun* [C]
   **1** something that has been cut in half so that you can see the inside, or a model or picture of this:
     *a cross-section of the human heart*
   **2** a small group which is representative of all the different types within the total group:
     *The demonstrators seemed to be* **from** *a complete cross-section of society - male and female, old and young, rich and poor.*

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**diameter** /δαI∀{μ.I.τ≅ρ/ **US** /–≅.≡≅ ‾/ *noun* [C or U]
   (the length of) a straight line that reaches from one point on the edge of a round shape or object, through its centre, to a point on the opposite edge:
   *The diameter measures twice the radius.*
   *The pond is six feet* **in** *diameter.*

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**divide** (**CALCULATE**) /δI∀ϖαIδ/ *verb*
   **1 divide** *sth* **by** *sth* to calculate the number of times by which one number fits (exactly) into another:
     *10 divided by 5 is/equals 2.*
   Compare multiply; subtract.

   **2 divide** *(sth)* **into** *sth* If a number divides into another number, it fits (exactly) into it when multiplied a particular number of times:
     *What do you get if you divide 6 into 18?*
     *2 divides into 10 five times.*

  **divisible** /δI∀ϖIζ.I.βλ=/ *adjective* (US ALSO **dividable**)
    *A prime number is a whole number greater than 1 which is exactly divisible* **by** *itself and 1 but no other number.*

  **division** /δI∀ϖIΖ.≊ν/ *noun* [U]
    when you calculate how many times one number goes into another

  **divisor** /δI∀ϖαI.ζ≅ρ/ **US** /–ζ≅ ‾/ *noun* [C]
    *When you divide 21 by 7, 7 is the divisor.*

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**even** (**NUMBER**) /∀ι:.ϖ≊ν/ *adjective*
  forming a whole number which can be divided exactly by two:
  *6 is an even number and 7 is an odd number.*
NOTE: The opposite is **odd**.

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  **more or less**
   **1** mostly:
    *The project was more or less a success.*

   **2** approximately:
    *It's 500 kilos, more or less.*

**3** very nearly:
*He more or less admitted he'd done it.*

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**multiply** /∀μςλ.τI.πλαI/ **US** /–≡I–/ *verb* [I or T]
to increase greatly in number, or (in mathematics) to add a number to itself a particular number of times:
*In warm weather these germs multiply rapidly.*
*If you multiply seven **by** 15 you get 105.*
Compare add; divide (CALCULATE); subtract.

**multiplication** /‰μςλ.τI.πλI∀κεI.Σ⁼ν/ **US** /–≡I–/ *noun* [U]

Note: **MULTIPLIED =times** /ταImζ/
multiplied by:
*Two times two equals four (2 x 2 = 4).*
*The area of a rectangle is its height times its width.*

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**odd (NUMBERS)** /Θδ/ **US** /A:δ/ *adjective*
(of numbers) not able to be divided exactly by two:
*3, 5, 7 are all odd numbers.*
*The houses on this side of the street have all got odd numbers.*
NOTE: The opposite is **even**.

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**radius** /∀ρεI.δι.≅σ/ *noun* [C] *plural* **radii**
**1** (the length of) a straight line joining the centre of a circle to its edge or the centre of a sphere to its surface:
*The radius of this wheel is 30 cm.*
*This wheel **has** a radius **of** 30 cm.*
**2** a distance:
*The station, shopping centre and school lie within a one-mile radius of the house.*

**radius** /∀ρεI.δι.≅σ/ *noun* [C] *plural* **radii** SPECIALIZED
the thicker of the two bones in the lower arm

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**range (LIMIT)** /ρεIνδZ/ *noun*
**1** [S] the amount, number or type of something between an upper and a lower limit:
*The price range is **from** $100 **to** $500.*
*The product is aimed at young people **in** the 18 - 25 age range.*
*The coat was **in/out of** my price range.*
*This type of work is **outside/beyond/out of** my range (**of** experience).*
**2** [S or U] the distance within which you can see, hear or hit someone:
*The ship was **in/out of** range of our guns.*
*He was shot **at point blank/at close** range (= from very near).*
**3** [S] the period of time in the future within which something is planned or expected to happen:
*long-range plans*
*short-/medium-/long-range weather forecasting*
**4** [S] the distance that a vehicle or aircraft can travel without having to stop for more fuel:
*short-/medium-/long-range airliners*
**5** [C] all the musical notes that a singer can sing or a musical instrument is able to produce

**range** /ρεIνδZ/ *verb* [I usually + adverb or preposition]
*Dress sizes range **from** petite **to** extra large.*
*Prices range **between** $50 **and** $250.*

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**rate** (MEASURE) /ρεΙτ/ *noun* [C]
the speed at which something happens or changes, or the amount or number of times it happens or changes in a particular period:
*Although she's recovering from her illness, her rate **of** progress is quite slow.*
*I told my assistants to work **at** their **own** rate.*
*The taxi was going **at** a tremendous rate.*
*the growth/inflation/mortality/unemployment, etc. rate*
*The drug has a high **success/failure** rate.*
See also rate at rates.
  **at a rate of knots** UK AND AUSTRALIAN ENGLISH
    If someone does something at a rate of knots, they do it very quickly:
    *She got through her work at a rate of knots.*
  **at this rate**
    if the situation stays as it is:
    *At this rate, we won't be home till midnight.*
  **at any rate**
   **1** whatever happens:
    *Well, I'm not going home on foot, at any rate.*
   **2** something you say to show that you are going to say something more exactly:
    *I don't think they liked my idea. At any rate, they weren't very enthusiastic about it.*

**rate** (PAYMENT) /ρεΙτ/ *noun* [C]
an amount or level of payment:
*We agreed a rate with the painter before he started work.*
*What's the **going** (= standard) rate **for** this type of work?*
*Do you pay your mortgage on a **fixed** or **variable** rate?*
See also rate at rates.

**rate** (JUDGE) /ρεΙτ/ *verb* [T]
  **1** to judge the value or character of someone or something:
    *How do you rate him **as** a footballer?*
    *She is rated very **highly** by the people she works for.*
    INFORMAL *"What do you think of her as a singer?" "I don't really rate her* (= I do not think that she is very good)*."*
    *I rate cars **as** one of the worst polluters of the environment.*
    [+ object + noun] *On a scale of one to ten, I'd rate his book a five.*
    *Car crashes are so frequent that they don't rate **a mention** (= are not considered to be worth reporting) in the newspaper unless a lot of people are killed.*
    See also rate at rates; underrate; overrate.
  **2 rate as *sth*** to be considered to be something of a particular quality:
    *That rates as the worst film I've ever seen.*

 **-rate** /−ρεΙτ/ *suffix*
    *His suggestions are always **first**-rate (= very good).*
    *This company produces **second/third**-rate (= not very good) goods.*

 **rating** /∀ρεΙ.τΙN/ **US** /−≡ΙN/ *noun* [C or U]
    a measurement of how good or popular someone or something is:
    *The government's **popularity** rating sank to an all-time low.*

 **ratings** /∀ρεΙ.τΙNζ/ **US** /−≡ΙNζ/ *plural noun*
    a list of television and radio programmes showing how popular they are:
    *Advertisers are interested in ratings.*
    *The serial has fallen in **the** ratings this week.*

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**scale** (MEASURE) /σκεΙλ/ *noun*
  **1** [C] a set of numbers, amounts etc., used to measure or compare the level of something:
    *the Centigrade/Fahrenheit scale*
    *How would you rate his work **on a** scale **of** 1 to 5?*
    See also scales.
  **2** [C or U] the relation between the real size of something and its size on a map, model or diagram:
    *a scale of 1:50 000*
    *This map is **large** scale (= things are shown in detail).*
    *Is the bridge drawn **to** scale (= so that it shows the exact shape of the bridge, but much smaller)?*
    *He was building a scale **model** of Concorde.*
    See picture scale on a map.

**scale (SIZE)** /σκεIλ/ *noun* [S or U]

the size or level of something, especially when this is large:

*We don't yet know the scale of the problem.*

*Nuclear weapons cause destruction **on** a massive scale (= cause a lot of destruction).*

*My parents used to entertain friends **on a large/small** scale (= they had large/small parties).*

**large/small-scale**

describes an event or activity that is large/small in size:

*a large-scale investigation*

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**slight (SMALL IN AMOUNT)** /σλαIτ/ *adjective*

small in amount or degree:

*a slight improvement*

*a slight incline*

*I've got a slight headache.*

*I haven't the slightest **idea** what he's talking about*

**not in the slightest**

not at all:

*"Does it worry you?" "Not in the slightest."*

**slightly** /∀σλαIτ.λι/ *adverb*

a little:

*She's slightly taller than her sister.*

*I'm slightly upset that she forgot my birthday.*

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**span (SPACE)** /σπ{ν/ *noun*

**1** [C usually singular] the period of time that sometimes exists or happens:

*He has a short **attention/concentration** span.*

*an average **life** span of seventy years*

***Over a** span **of** just three years, the new government has transformed the country's economic prospects.*

See also lifespan; wingspan.

**2** [C] the length of something from one end to the other:

*huge wings with a span of over a metre*

**3** [C] the area of a bridge, etc. between two supports:

*The bridge crosses the river in a single span.*

**span** /σπ{ν/ *verb* [T] **-nn-**

**1** to exist or continue for a particular length of time:

*Tennis has a history spanning several centuries.*

*Her acting career spanned almost six decades.*

**2** If a bridge spans a river, it goes from one side to the other:

*An old bridge spans the river just outside the town.*

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**stage (PART)** /στεIδZ/ *noun* [C]

**1** a part of an activity or a period of development:

*The project is **in** its final stages and should be completed by August.*

*They did the last stage of their journey on foot.*

*Our marriage is going through a difficult stage at the moment.*

*Their youngest child is **at** the stage **where** she can say individual words but not full sentences.*

*I'm not tired at the moment but I will need a rest **at some** stage (= at some time) during the walk.*

*Andrew spends all his spare time playing with his computer but it's probably **just** a stage he's **going through** (= a period of development that will end soon).*

**2** SPECIALIZED one of the separate parts of a rocket, each stage having its own engine:

*Once its fuel supply runs out, each stage separates from the main part of the rocket and falls back to Earth.*

**in stages**

If you do something in stages, you divide the activity into parts and complete each part separately:

*We're decorating the house in stages so it won't be ready for another couple of months.*

**Stage**

**Stage** cannot be used to mean a training
course.

He did a course in web design.

He did a stage in web design.

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**standard (USUAL)** /∀στ{ν.δ≅δ/ **US** /−δ≅ δ̄/ *adjective*

**1** usual rather than special, especially when thought of as being correct or acceptable:
*White is the standard colour for this model of refrigerator.*
*These are standard **procedures** for handling radioactive waste.*
*The metre is the standard unit for measuring length in the SI system.*
MAINLY UK *Your new TV comes with a two year guarantee **as** standard.*
See also <u>substandard</u>.

**2** Language described as standard is the form of that language which is considered acceptable and correct by most educated users of it:
*Most announcers on the BBC speak standard **English**.*
*In Standard **American**, 'gotten' is used as a past participle of 'get'.*

**3** [before noun] A standard book or writer is the one that is most commonly read for information on a particular subject:
*Her book is still a standard text in archaeology, even though it was written more than twenty years ago.*

**standard** /∀στ{ν.δ≅δ/ **US** /−δ≅ δ̄/ *noun*

**1** [C] a song or other piece of music which has been popular and often played over a long period of time
**2** [C usually singular] a pattern or model that is generally accepted:
*This program is an industry standard for computers.*
**3** [C] US a car with gears that are changed by hand

**standardize,** UK USUALLY **standardise** /∀στ{ν.δ≅.δαIζ/ **US** /−δ≅ −̄/ *verb* [T]
to make things of the same type all have the same basic features:
*We standardize parts such as rear-view mirrors, so that one type will fit any model of car we make.*

**standardization,** UK USUALLY **standardisation** /‰στ{ν.δ≅.δαI∀ζεI.Σ≞ν/ **US** /−δ≅ −̄/ *noun* [U]

**standard (QUALITY)** /∀στ{ν.δ≅δ/ **US** /−δ≅ δ̄/ *noun*

**1** [C or U] a level of quality:
*This essay is not **of** an acceptable standard - do it again.*
*This piece of work is **below** standard/is not **up to** standard.*
*We have very high safety standards in this laboratory.*
*Not everyone judges success by the same standards - some people think happiness is more important than money.*
*Her technique became a standard against which all future methods were compared.*

**2** [C usually plural] a moral rule which should be obeyed:
*Most people agree that there are standards **(of behaviour)** which need to be upheld, but agreeing on them is rather more difficult.*

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**survey (QUESTIONS)** /∀σ3:.ϖεI/ **US** /∀σ3 :̄−/ *noun* [C]
an examination of opinions, behaviour, etc., made by asking people questions:
*A recent survey **found/revealed/showed** that 58% of people did not know where their heart is.*
*to **conduct/carry out/do** a survey*

**survey** /∀σ3:.ϖεI/ **US** /∀σ3 :̄−/ *verb* [T]
to ask people questions in order to find out about their opinions or behaviour:
*The researchers surveyed the attitudes of 2500 college students.*
*Many of the listeners surveyed said that they were not satisfied with the station's programmes.*

**survey (LOOK AT)** /σ≅∀ϖεI/ **US** /∀σ3 :̄.ϖεI/ *verb*

**1** [T] SLIGHTLY FORMAL to look at or examine all of something, especially carefully:
*He got out of the car to survey the damage.*
*She has written a book which surveys* (= describes in detail) *the history of feminism.*

**2** [T] to measure an area of land, and to record the details of it, especially on a map:
*Before the new railway was built, its route was carefully surveyed.*

**3** [T often passive] UK (US AND AUSTRALIAN ENGLISH **inspect**) If a building is surveyed, it is examined carefully by a specially trained person, in order to discover whether there is anything wrong with its structure.

**lord/master/mistress/king/queen of all *you* survey** HUMOROUS
If you are lord/master/mistress/king/queen of all you survey, you own or control the place in which you live or work.

**survey** /∀σ3:.ϖεI/ **US** /∀σ3 ‾:‒/ *noun* [C]
**1** the measuring and recording of the details of an area of land:
*a **geological** survey*
**2** a description of the whole of a subject:
*His new book is a survey **of** European theatre in the nineteenth century.*
**3** UK (US AND AUSTRALIAN ENGLISH **inspection**) an examination of the structure of a building by a specially trained person

**surveyor** /σ≅∀ϖεI.≅ᵖ/ **US** /σ≅ ‾∀ϖεI.≅ ‾/ *noun* [C]
**1** a person whose job is to measure and record the details of areas of land
**2** UK (US **structural engineer**) a person who is specially trained to examine buildings and discover whether there are any problems with their structure

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**subtract** /σ≅β∀τρ{κτ/ *verb* [T]
to remove a number from another number:
*Four subtracted **from** ten equals six.*
Compare add; divide; multiply.

**subtraction** /σ≅β∀τρ{κ.Σ‾̃ν/ *noun* [U]
the process of removing one number from another:
*The test involves simple calculations, such as addition and subtraction.*