

mass measurement kg kilogram



All nations on Earth have agreed to measure things using the International System of Units (SI).
The kilogram in the SI system is a unit of mass, which is a measure of the amount of ‘stuff’ that makes up the object.

A litre of water has a mass of approximately **1 kilogram**.



Other mass units

	1 000 milligrams = 1 gram	1 000 grams = 1 kilogram	1 000 kilograms = 1 tonne
also written	1 000 mg = 1 g	1 000 g = 1 kg	1 000 kg = 1 t

How do we measure mass?

Machines that determine mass can be mechanical or electronic, but are usually a mixture of both to give the best accuracy.



Kitchen scales
(mechanical and electronic)



Mechanical balance



Mechanical spring balance

Challenge:

Put these in order of lowest to highest mass, and guess their masses in grams, kilograms or tonnes.



Pencil



Elephant



Apple



Dog

Did you know?

In shops, solids are sold by mass, liquids by volume and ice-cream by both!

Second edition

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Challenge answers: pencil 20 g, apple 100 g, dog 12 kg, elephant 1 tonne.