

**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 $\frac{24 \text{ hours}}{1 \text{ day}}$

\* put what you want at the top

\* doesn't count towards sig figs!

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:

**Unknown Amount = (initial amount given in the problem) x (conversion factor)**

Examples:

1. How many seconds are there in 49.56 minutes?

$$\underset{4 \text{ sf}}{49.56 \text{ minutes}} \times \frac{\overset{\text{Want}}{60 \text{ seconds}}}{\underset{\text{given}}{1 \text{ minute}}} = 2973.6 \text{ seconds} = \underline{\underline{2974 \text{ seconds}}} \text{ (4 sig figs)}$$

2. How many hours are there in 448.2 minutes?

$$\underset{4 \text{ sf}}{448.2 \text{ minutes}} \times \frac{\overset{\text{Want}}{1 \text{ hours}}}{\underset{\text{given}}{60 \text{ minutes}}} = \underline{\underline{7.470 \text{ hours}}}$$

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

$$\underset{2 \text{ sf}}{44 \text{ days}} \times \frac{24 \text{ hours}}{1 \text{ day}} \times \frac{60 \text{ min}}{1 \text{ hours}} = 63360 = \boxed{\underline{\underline{63000 \text{ min}}} = \underline{\underline{6.3 \times 10^4 \text{ min}}}}$$

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

$$\underline{3 \text{ days}} \times \frac{\underline{24 \text{ hours}}}{\underline{1 \text{ day}}} \times \frac{\underline{60 \text{ mins}}}{\underline{1 \text{ hour}}} \times \frac{\underline{60 \text{ sec}}}{\underline{1 \text{ min}}} = 259200 = \boxed{\underline{300\,000 \text{ sec}}}$$

$\underline{3 \times 10^5 \text{ sec}}$

5. How old are you in seconds?

$$\underline{16 \text{ years}} \times \frac{\underline{365 \text{ days}}}{\underline{1 \text{ year}}} \times \frac{\underline{24 \text{ hours}}}{\underline{1 \text{ day}}} \times \frac{\underline{60 \text{ min}}}{\underline{1 \text{ hour}}} \times \frac{\underline{60 \text{ sec}}}{\underline{1 \text{ min}}} = \boxed{\underline{5.0 \times 10^8 \text{ sec}}}$$

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.

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

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

$$\underline{5.00 \text{ s}} \times \left( \frac{\underline{1 \text{ min}}}{\underline{60 \text{ sec}}} \right) \times \left( \frac{\underline{1 \text{ hr}}}{\underline{60 \text{ min}}} \right) \times \left( \frac{\underline{50.0 \text{ km}}}{\underline{1 \text{ hr}}} \right) \times \frac{\underline{1000 \text{ m}}}{\underline{1 \text{ km}}} = \boxed{\underline{69.4 \text{ m}}}$$

**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?

$$\underline{1.67 \text{ week}} \times \frac{\underline{7 \text{ days}}}{\underline{1 \text{ week}}} \times \frac{\underline{24 \text{ hrs}}}{\underline{1 \text{ day}}} \times \frac{\underline{60 \text{ mins}}}{\underline{1 \text{ hr}}} = \underline{1.68 \cdot 10^4 \text{ min}} = \boxed{\underline{16800 \text{ min}}}$$

9. How many centimeters are in 21.598 km?

$$\underline{21.598 \text{ km}} \times \frac{\underline{1000 \text{ m}}}{\underline{1 \text{ km}}} \times \frac{\underline{100 \text{ cm}}}{\underline{1 \text{ m}}} = \underline{2.1598 \cdot 10^6 \text{ cm}} = \boxed{\underline{2159800 \text{ cm}}}$$

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

$$\underline{45 \text{ dozen}} \times \frac{\underline{12 \text{ egg}}}{\underline{1 \text{ dozen}}} = \boxed{\underline{540 \text{ eggs}}}$$

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

$$\underline{3.2675 \text{ hrs}} \times \frac{\underline{50.0 \text{ km}}}{\underline{1 \text{ hr}}} = \boxed{\underline{163.38 \text{ km}}}$$

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**"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?

$$\underline{3 \text{ days}} \times \frac{24 \text{ hours}}{1 \text{ day}} \times \frac{60 \text{ min}}{1 \text{ hour}} = 4320 \text{ min} = \underline{4000 \text{ min}} \\ \underline{4 \cdot 10^3 \text{ min}}$$

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<sup>3</sup> of ice has a mass of 917 kg?

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

$1 \text{ kg} = 334 \text{ kJ}$        $1.0 \text{ m}^3 = 917 \text{ kg}$

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

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

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

$$50.00 \text{ yards} \times \frac{3 \text{ ft}}{1 \text{ yard}} \times \frac{12 \text{ inches}}{1 \text{ foot}} \times \frac{2.54 \text{ cm}}{1 \text{ inch}} \times \frac{1 \text{ m}}{100 \text{ cm}} = 45.72 \text{ m}$$

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

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

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?

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

Counting numbers  
→ no sig figs!

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/tack<sup>2</sup> into dops/tock<sup>2</sup>

$$\frac{21.1 \text{ dips}}{\text{tack}^2} \times \frac{6 \text{ dops}}{1 \text{ dip}} \times \frac{10 \text{ tocks}}{1 \text{ tock}} \times \frac{10 \text{ tacks}}{1 \text{ tock}} = 1.27 \cdot 10^4 \text{ dops/tock}^2$$

because of the <sup>2</sup>

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

11) 163.38 km