

**OLD**

**WEIGHTS**

**&**

**MEASURES**

**PLUS A LITTLE METRIC**

Old Weights and Measures  
A Watchya.com publication  
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How many **square poles** in a **rood**?

How big is a **hectare**?

What's a **quintal**?

Where does an **inch** come from?

A cricket pitch is one **chain** in length – what's that?

Do you know your **scruples** from your **drachms**?

Would you swap a **florin** for a **guinea**?

The distance from the equator to the North Pole via Paris is not 10 million metres. Metric measures are arbitrary so why don't we use **nautical** measure instead of **metric**?

Whatever happened to **hogsheads** and **weys**?

What sort of uneducated degenerate doesn't know the value of a **noble**?

Is a **myriolitre** more useful than a **truss**?

Now read on . . . . .



## Avoirdupois Weight

16 drams, dr.	=	1 ounce, oz.
16 ounces	=	1 pound, lb.
14 pounds	=	1 stone, st.
28 pounds	=	1 quarter, qr.
4 quarters	=	1 hundredweight, cwt.
20 hundredweights	=	1 ton, t.
100 pounds	=	1 central, or short cwt.
2000 pounds	=	1 short ton
7000 grains	=	1 pound

## Troy Weight

3.1683 grains, gr.	=	1 carat
24 grains, gr.	=	1 pennyweight, dwt.
20 pennyweights	=	1 ounce, oz.
12 ounces	=	1 pound, lb.
5760 grains	=	1 pound

## Apothecary's Weight, Dry

20 grains, gr.	=	1 scruple, ℥
3 scruples	=	1 drachm, ℥
8 drachms	=	1 ounce, ℥
12 ounces	=	1 pound, lb

## Apothecary's Measure, Liquid

60 minims or drops, m	=	1 fluid drachm, <i>f℥</i>
8 fluid drachms	=	1 fluid ounce, <i>f℥</i>
20 fluid ounces	=	1 pint, O
2 pints	=	1 quart, qu.
8 pints	=	1 gallon, Cong.

## Linear Measure

12 inches, ins	=	1 foot, ft.
3 feet	=	1 yard, yd.
5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> yards	=	1 rod, rd.; pole, po.; or perch, per.
40 poles	=	1 furlong, fur.
8 furlongs	=	1 mile, mi.
1760 yards	=	1 mile, mi.
5280 feet	=	1 mile, mi.
3 miles	=	1 league

## Land Measure

7.92 inches	=	1 link, li.
25 links	=	1 rod, rd.
4 rods or 100 links	=	1 chain, ch.
1 chain	=	22 yards
80 chains	=	1 mile, mi.

## Square Measure

144 square inches, sq. in.	=	1 square foot, sq. ft.
9 square feet	=	1 square yard, sq. yd.
$30^{1/4}$ square yards	=	1 square rod, sq. rd. square pole, sq. po. square perch, sq. per.
40 square poles	=	1 rood, r.
4 roods	=	1 acre, ac.
4840 square yards	=	1 acre, ac
640 acres	=	1 square miles, sq. mi.

## Land Square Measure

625 square links, sq. li.	=	1 square rod, sq. rd.
16 square rods	=	1 square chain, sq. rd.
10 square chains	=	1 acre, ac.
640 acres	=	1 square mile, sq. mi.

## Cubic or Solid Measure

1728 cubic inches, cu. in.	=	1 cubic foot, cu.ft.
27 cubic feet	=	1 cubic yard, cu. yd.

## Liquid Measure

4 gills, gill	=	1 pint, pt.
2 pints	=	1 quart, qu.
4 quarts	=	1 gallon, gal.

## Dry Measure

2 pints, pt	=	1 quart, qt.
4 quarts	=	1 gallon, gal.
2 gallons	=	1 peck, pk.
4 pecks	=	1 bushel, bush.
8 bushels	=	1 quarter, qr.
36 bushels	=	1 chaldron, chal.
5 quarters	=	1 wey
2 weys	=	1 last

## Old English Measures

72 points	=	1 inch
12 lines	=	1 inch
3 barley corns	=	1 inch
The inch is exactly the same as the Pyramid inch measure from ancient Egypt		
$\frac{3}{4}$ inch	=	1 digit
$2\frac{1}{4}$ inches	=	1 nail, n.
3 inches	=	1 palm
4 inches	=	1 hand, hd.
9 inches	=	1 span
$1\frac{1}{4}$ yards	=	1 English ell
$1\frac{1}{2}$ yards	=	1 French ell
37·06 inches	=	1 Scottish ell
18 inches	=	1 cubit
3 feet or 5 feet	=	1 pace
4 bushels	=	1 coombe
1 yoke of land ( $\frac{3}{4}$ acre)	is a day's work for 2 oxen	

## Miscellaneous Measures

8 pounds	=	1 stone of meat
56 pounds	=	1 firkin of butter
12 articles	=	1 dozen
13 articles	=	1 long dozen or baker's dozen
12 dozen	=	1 gross
12 gross	=	1 great gross
20 articles	=	1 score
24 sheets	=	1 quire
20 quires	=	1 ream
1 lac	=	100,000
10 gallons	=	1 anker of wine
18 gallons	=	1 runlet
42 gallons	=	1 tierce
1 hogshead	=	Around 50 gallons (but would vary according to the kind of wine)
2 hogsheads	=	1 pipe (around 100-105 gallons but would vary with the wine)

## Beer

4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> gallons	=	1 Pin
9 gallons	=	1 Firkin
18 gallons	=	1 Kilderkin
36 gallons	=	1 Barrel
54 gallons	=	1 Hogshead
72 gallons	=	1 Puncheon
108 gallons	=	1 Butt

## Nautical Measures

6.08 feet	=	1 fathom, fa.
100 fathoms	=	1 cable's length
10 cable's lengths or 1000 fathoms	=	1 nautical mile
60 nautical miles	=	1 degree
360 degrees	=	Earth's circumference
1 knot (speed)	=	1 nautical mile per hour

## Hay and Straw Weight

36 pounds of straw	=	1 truss
56 pounds of old hay	=	1 truss
60 pounds of new hay	=	1 truss
36 trusses	=	1 load
1 load of straw	=	11 cwts. 64 lb.
1 load of old hay	=	18 cwts.
1 load of new hay	=	19 cwts. 32 lb.

## Wool Weight

7 pounds avoirdupois	=	1 clove
14 pounds	=	1 stone
28 pounds	=	1 tod
182 pounds	=	1 wey
364 pounds	=	1 sack
4368 pounds	=	1 last
20 pounds	=	1 score
12 score	=	1 pack

## Money Table

4 farthings	=	1 penny, d.
12 pennies	=	1 shilling, s.
20 shillings	=	1 pound or sovereign, £.
2 shillings	=	1 florin
2s 6d.	=	1 half crown
5 shillings	=	1 crown
21 shillings	=	1 guinea

## Old English Coins

1 groat	=	4 pence
1 tester	=	6 pence
1 noble	=	6s 8d. (6/8)
1 angel	=	10s (10/-)
1 half guinea	=	10s 6d. (10/6)
1 mark	=	13s 4d. (13/4)
1 guinea	=	£1 1s
1 Carolus	=	£1 3s
1 Jacobus	=	£1 5s
1 Moidore	=	£1 7s
1 Joannes	=	£1 16s

# Metric

## Measures of Weight

10	millegrammes, mg.	=	1	centigrammes, cg.
10	centigrammes	=	1	decigramme, dg.
10	decigrammes	=	1	gramme, g.
10	grammes	=	1	decagramme, Dg.
10	decagrammes	=	1	hectogramme, Hg.
10	hectogrammes	=	1	kilogramme, Kg.
10	kilogrammes	=	1	myriagramme, Mg.
10	myriagrammes	=	1	quintal, Ql.
10	quintals	=	1	tonne, T.

## Linear Measure

10	millimetres, mm.	=	1	centimetre, cm.
10	centimetres	=	1	decimetre, dm.
10	decimetres	=	1	metre, m.
10	metres	=	1	decametre, Dm.
10	decametres	=	1	hectometre, Hm.
10	hectometres	=	1	kilometre, Km.
10	kilometres	=	1	myriametre, Mm.

## Square Measure

100 square millimetres	=	1 square centimetre, sq. cm. or $\text{cm}^2$
100 square centimetres	=	1 square decimetre, sq. dm. or $\text{dm}^2$
100 square decimetres	=	1 square metre or 1 centiare, sq. m. or $\text{m}^2$
100 square metres	=	1 square decametre or 1 are, sq. Dm. or $\text{Dm}^2$
100 square decametres	=	1 square hectometre or 1 hectare, sq. Hm. or $\text{Hm}^2$ or Ha.
100 square hectometres	=	1 square kilometre, sq. Km. or $\text{Km}^2$

## Measure of Capacity

10 millilitres, ml.	=	1 centilitre, cl.
10 centilitres	=	1 decilitre, dl.
10 decilitres	=	1 litre, l.
10 litres	=	1 decolitre, Dl.
10 decolitres	=	1 hectolitre, Hl.
10 hectolitres	=	1 kilolitre, Kl.
10 kilolitres	=	1 myriolitre, Ml.

# Roman Numerals

I – 1	CC – 200
II – 2	CCC – 300
III – 3	CD – 400
IV – 4	D – 500
V – 5	I↷ – 500
VI – 6	DC – 600
VII – 7	I↷C – 600
VIII – 8	DCC – 700
IX – 9	M – 1000
X – 10	CI↷ – 1000
XI – 11	MC – 1100
XII – 12	MD – 1500
XIII – 13	MM – 2000
XIV – 14	CI↷CI↷ – 2000
XV – 15	IICI↷ – 2000
XVI – 16	IIM – 2000
XVII – 17	$\overline{V}$ – 5000
XVIII – 18	I↷↷ – 5000
XIX – 19	$\overline{VI}$ – 6000
XX – 20	$\overline{X}$ – 10,000
XXX – 30	CCI↷↷ – 10,000
XL – 40	I↷↷↷ – 50,000
L – 50	$\overline{C}$ – 100,000
LX – 60	CCCI↷↷↷ – 100,000
LXX – 70	CCCCI↷↷↷↷ – 1,000,000
LXXX – 80	$\overline{M}$ – 1,000,000
XC – 90	
C – 100	