Guide to: Reading scales

maths Links

Explanation:

To read any scale accurately, never guess what each small mark goes up in. First find the **difference between two neighbouring numbered marks**, then **count the number of spaces (divisions)** between them (count the gaps, not the tick lines).

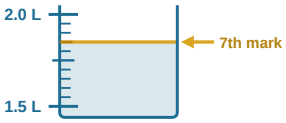
Divide the difference by the number of gaps: 1 small division = Gap ÷ Number of spaces. Also check whether the question asks you to convert units (e.g. 1 kg = 1000 g, 1 litre = 1000 ml).

Example 1: Write down the reading shown by the arrow on this kitchen scale.



- Gap = 300 − 200 = 100 g split into **5 spaces**
- Each division = 100 ÷ 5 = 20 g
- 3 divisions past 200 g = 200 + 60 = **260 g**

Example 2: A jug has **10 divisions** between 1.5 L and 2.0 L. Water is **7 divisions** above 1.5 L. Find the volume in L and ml.



- 1 division = (2.0 − 1.5) ÷ 10 = **0.05 L** (50 ml)
- Reading = 1.5 + 7 × 0.05 = **1.85 L (1850 ml)**

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