Units of Weight

**Customary Unit**  |  **Conversion**
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ounce (oz)  | 1 lb = 16 oz
pound (lb)  | 1 ton = 2,000 lb

A large chicken egg weighs about 2 ounces.

**Metric Unit**  |  **Conversion**
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gram (g)  | 1 kg = 1,000 g
kilogram (kg)  | 1

A nickel weighs exactly 5 grams.

Weights are often listed as mixed measures. For example, 5 pounds 7 ounces equals 87 ounces. Since 5 pounds equals 5 \times 16 = 80 ounces, 5 pounds 7 ounces equals 80 + 7 = 87 ounces.

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PRACTICE

Use the information above to help you solve each problem below.

34. How many grams are there in four kilograms?  
34. ____

35. When Alex was born, he weighed 3 pounds 9 ounces. What was Alex’s birth weight in ounces?  
35. ____

36. At the Academy Steak House, you can order a 50-ounce steak. It comes with a 14-ounce baked potato. How many pounds does the whole meal weigh?  
36. ____

37. Lizzie has five textbooks. Each book weighs 1 lb 5 oz. What is the total weight of Lizzie’s books in pounds and ounces?  
37. ____lb ____oz

★ When a weight is given in pounds and ounces, the number of ounces must always be less than 16.
A **spring scale** uses a spring that is stretched or compressed. On the spring scale to the right, the weight is displayed in pounds and ounces. The numbered tick marks on the scale indicate pounds. The tick marks between the numbered tick marks indicate ounces.

The arrow on this spring scale points at the 11th tick mark past 3, so the sack on this spring scale weighs 3 lb 11 oz.

A **balance scale** compares weights.

The object you are weighing is placed on one side of the scale. Objects of known weight are placed on the other side until the two sides are level.

When the two sides are level, we say that the scale is balanced, meaning the weight on each side is the same. The elefinch on this balance scale weighs 50 + 40 = 90 grams.

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**PRACTICE**  Write the weight displayed on each scale below in the units listed.

38.

A scale is used to measure weight.

39.

40.

41.
42. What is the combined weight in pounds and ounces of the two bags of coins on the scales below?

42. _____lb _____oz

43. Use your answers from the previous page for the weight of the octapug and the pandakeet. How can all five items below be placed on the scale so that the scale is balanced?

44. What is the weight of one scale?

44. _____lb _____oz