Going Metric is easy and is seeping into the U.S. language.
Metric is here to stay.
By Don M. Jordan, University of South Carolina

“In truth, metrics has seeped into the U.S vernacular beyond the plastic soda bottle” (says Edward M. Eveld, Knight Ridder Newspapers). It is perfectly acceptable to speak of the 100 meter racer in the Olympics or the local 5K run for cancer research. People are happy to buy 35 mm film and talk about the 4.0 liter engine in their car. Fat and fiber come in grams, sodium in milligrams, computer speeds in megahertz, and even wine and spirits come in metric sizes only. Watts, volts, and amperes are metric units. The metric system is the language of science and medicine. If you want to go to college, you better take chemistry in high school. Chemistry is 100% metric.

Soon you may see product labeling only in metric.
Like Olivia Newton-John, “Let`s Get Physical”.

One can make a relationship between each everyday metric units and something physical. For example: Centimeter: the diameter of the colored part of your eye. Meter: the height of a door knob in your home, the length of a baseball bat. Gram: a little more than the weight of a paper clip, three raisins, or Sweet’N Low packet. Decimeter: The length of an ordinary wall receptacle. Square Decimeter: the size of a slice of bread. And so on …Note: No relationship to the customary units is made. You do not want to mix the units. So I would never say a meter is about a yard.

The Four Main Reasons Why the US Should GO METRIC.

1. **The SI Metric System was scientifically developed.**
   Example: All units stem from seven basic units. {(1) Meter - length, (2) Kilogram - mass, (3) Second - time, (4) Ampere – electric current, (5) Kelvin or Celsius - temperature, (6) Mole – amount of substance, (7) Candela – luminous intensity

2. **Ease of computation.** Try converting 29 mi to rods to yards to feet to inches - compare with converting 29 km to hectometers to meters to decimeters to centimeters. The metric system is based on decimal arithmetic, just like dollars and cents. Once learned, it’s simpler to use and less prone to error. Adopting the metric system is a good deal for Education. Metrciation increases both efficiency and quality and will help ensure that American students stay technologically competitive with their foreign counterparts.

3. **Economic & Trade reasons.**
   Most major U. S. industries - including the automobile, construction equipment, machine tool, electronics, soft drink, liquor, pharmaceutical and health care industries - are primarily or completely metricated. Since 1994, billions of dollars of federal, state and local metric construction projects of all kinds have been built using the metric system. We only need to make the change once. The benefits are perpetual.

4. **This is a METRIC WORLD (Universal Language)** If the US completely adopts the Metric System, it will be the first time since the dawn of civilization that the world will have one language of measurement. Imagine if we could do this with English or Spanish. The metric system is the international system of measurement - 94 percent of the people on earth use it all the time.

Note: In 1988, Congress made the metric system the preferred system of measurement in the United States.

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Note at the site: [www.cas.sc.edu/cse/jordan](http://www.cas.sc.edu/cse/jordan) you can find the following: Under Metric then see Puzzles and games: Measurement Word Search; Measurement Crossword puzzler; Vocabulary Challenge; NIST Metric Pyramid; The Big Match Up; My Name Card; Metric Book Mark. These are the same as found at [www.nist.gov/kids](http://www.nist.gov/kids). Many others.