

Table 4.1 Abbreviations for Some Common SI Units*

Unit	Abbreviation	Quantity	Person honored by the unit
meter	m	length	
kilogram	kg	mass	
second	s	time	
ampere	A	current	Andre-Marie Ampere (1775–1836)
curie	C	radioactivity	Marie Curie (1867–1934)
degrees Celsius	°C	temperature	Anders Celsius (1701–1744)
Farad	F	capacitance	Michael Faraday (1791–1867)
hertz	Hz	frequency	Heinrich Hertz (1857–1894)
joule	J	energy	James Joule (1818–1889)
kelvin	K	absolute temperature	William Thomson, 1st Baron Kelvin (1824–1907)
lumen	lm	light intensity	
nepier ⁺	Np	natural log ratio	John Napier (1550–1617)
newton	N	force	Sir Isaac Newton (1642–1727)
ohm	Ω	resistance	Georg Ohm (1789–1854)
pascal	Pa	pressure	Blaise Pascal (1623–1662)
volt	V	voltage	Alessandro Volta (1745–1827)
watt	W	power	James Watt (1736–1819)

*The abbreviation of a unit named after a person begins with a capital letter. The spelled out word for such a unit always appears in lowercase.

⁺Not a genuine SI unit, but often included in the list.

Table 4.2 Power-of-Ten Prefixes for the International System of Units

Factor	10^{12}	10^9	10^6	10^3	10^{-2}	10^{-3}	10^{-6}	10^{-9}	10^{-12}
Name	tera	giga	mega	kilo	centi	milli	micro	nano	pico
Prefix	T	G	M	k	c	m	μ	n	p