Converting and Adding Capacities

The rule

1 L = 1,000 mL

Litres → millilitres: × 1,000. The decimal point moves **3 places right**.

Millilitres → litres: ÷ 1,000. The decimal point moves **3 places left**.

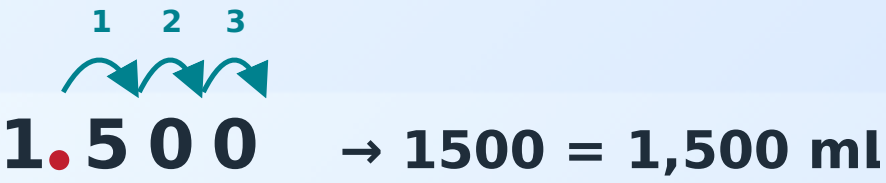
1,000 has 3 zeros, so the point moves 3 places. Add zeros if you need room.

Adding capacities: same unit first, then add.

A Litres to millilitres (× 1,000)

Example. *1.5 L × 1,000*

1.5 only has one place after the point, so add two zeros to make room: **1.500**. Then move the point 3 places right.



The point hops 3 places to the right.

With me. *2.05 L* → add a zero: _____ → move the point 3 places right: _____ mL

Your turn.

a) *2.4 L* = _____ mL

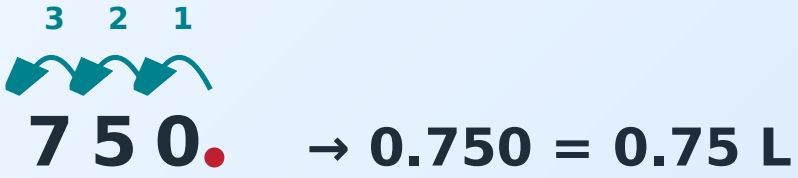
b) *0.75 L* = _____ mL

c) *1.08 L* = _____ mL

B Millilitres to litres (÷ 1,000)

Example. *750 mL ÷ 1,000*

In a whole number, the point is hiding at the end: **750.** Move it 3 places left: **.750**. Put a 0 in front of the point and drop the 0 at the end: **0.75 L**.



The point hops 3 places to the left.

With me. *1,300 mL* → the point is at the end: 1300. → move it 3 places left: _____ → drop the zeros: _____ L

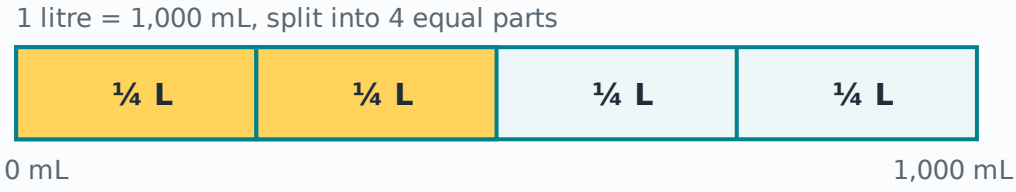
Your turn.

a) *2,500 mL* = _____ L

b) *1,250 mL* = _____ L

c) *80 mL* = _____ L

C Halves and quarters of a litre



Each part is 1,000 ÷ 4.

¼ *L* = _____ mL ½ *L* = _____ mL ¾ *L* = _____ mL

D Adding capacities in 3 steps

Sports day. Ava's drink bottle holds 1.5 L, Jack's holds 750 mL and Sam's holds ½ L. How much water is that altogether?

Circle your prediction: **more than 3 L** / **less than 3 L** My first try: _____

Step 1. Change everything to mL: _____ mL + _____ mL + _____ mL

Step 2. Add: _____ mL

Step 3. Change back to litres: _____ L

Together. *1 L + 750 mL + ½ L*

Step 1: _____ + _____ + _____ mL Step 2: _____ mL

Step 3: _____ L

On your own. Show all 3 steps.

1) *2 L + 250 mL + ¾ L*

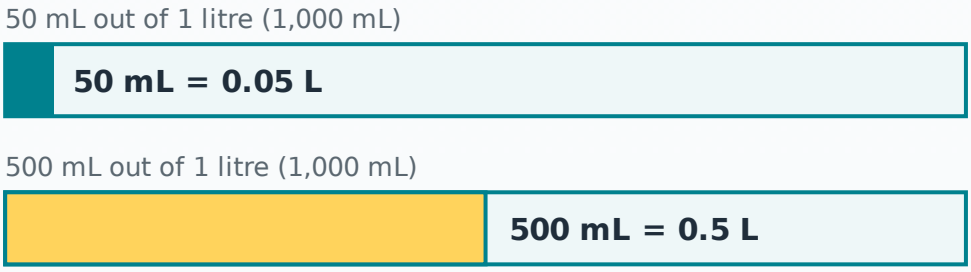
Answer: _____ L

2) *600 mL + 1.5 L*

Answer: _____ L

E Spot the mistake

Someone wrote: **"2 L 50 mL = 2.5 L"**



50 mL and 500 mL are very different amounts.

Right or wrong? _____

50 mL ÷ 1,000: 50. → _____ = _____ L So 2 L 50 mL = _____ L

2.5 L is really 2 L and _____ mL

F Order these from smallest to largest

Change each one into mL first, then order them.

900 mL	½ L	1.2 L	¾ L	1 L 50 mL	0.6 L

Smallest → largest: _____

G Group challenge: fill the 3 L water cooler

Use your bottle cards to fill the cooler with **exactly 3,000 mL**. Find two different ways.

> **Example.** ½ L + ½ L + 1 L + 1 L → 500 + 500 + 1,000 + 1,000 = 3,000 mL ✓

Cards we used	Check in mL (must total 3,000 mL)

> **Finished?** Find all 7 ways. Which uses the fewest bottles? Can you use at least one of each size?