

How to Measure Line Segments?

Understanding How to Measure Line Segments

- A line segment is a straight path between two points.
- We can measure the length of a line segment using a ruler or a scale.
- The unit used is usually centimeters (cm) or millimeters (mm).
- Always start measuring from the zero mark (0) of the ruler, not the edge.
- Make sure the ruler is placed straight and flat along the segment.

Steps to Measure a Line Segment

- Place the ruler such that the 0 mark is at the starting point of the segment
- Check where the other end of the segment lies on the ruler
- Read the number on the ruler at that point — this is the length of the segment
- Write the answer with the correct unit (cm or mm)

A better way of comparing line segments is to measure them using a scale (or ruler).



Measuring scale

Mixed Examples with Solutions

Example: Measure a line from point A to B that ends at 5 cm

Solution: Line segment AB = 5 cm



Example: A line segment starts at 0 and ends at 8.5 cm on the ruler. What is its length?

Solution: Length = 8.5 cm

Example: A segment begins at 2 cm and ends at 7 cm. What is its length?

Solution: $7 - 2 = 5$ cm



Example: If a line starts at 0 and ends at 45 mm, what is its length in cm?

Solution: $45 \text{ mm} = 4.5 \text{ cm}$

Example: A segment from P to Q is 9 cm long. If you place the ruler wrong and start at 1 cm, what length will you read?

Solution: You must start from 0 to get correct length = 9 cm

Summary Points

- A line segment has a fixed length and can be measured using a ruler.
- Start from the 0 mark of the ruler to avoid mistakes.
- Use cm or mm as the correct unit for measurement.
- Always place the ruler straight along the line segment.
- Measuring line segments helps in drawing and understanding shapes accurately.