

that's twice the area of Wales
the length of three football fields
that's enough to fill
4 Olympic swimming pools
as tall as 10 double-decker buses

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Area of Wales | 20 779 km ² |
| Volume of an Olympic swimming pool | 2500 m ³ |
| Height of a double-decker bus | about 4.5 m high |
| Length of a football field | 90–120 m |

Facts and figures reported in the press or on TV often include comparisons to try to help us to understand the size of something. You can think of 'the area of Wales' or 'the height of a double-decker bus' as different units.

- Which of the 'units' above would you use for the following news items?
 - the size of a new tower block
 - the amount of water leaking from a burst water main
 - the queue to buy cheap tickets for a concert
 - the sea covered by an oil spill.
- Here are two different ways of reporting an oil spill.



- Which headline provides the most accurate value for the area of sea covered?
 - Which headline gives you the best idea of the size of the spill?
- The following facts and figures were reported in a paper. Rewrite them using the 'units' given above.
 - The new Shard skyscraper in London is 304 metres tall.
 - The new riverside park is 500 m long.
 - It is estimated that 100 000 m³ of oil was spilled from the wrecked tanker.
 - What are the advantages of using these unusual units?
 - Suggest what problems there may be with giving information only in terms of these units.
 - Explain why scientists all use SI units.

I can...

- convert between different units.