

THERMOMETERS

When something gains heat energy, it gets hotter.
How hot something is, is referred to as its temperature.

Temperature is measured by devices called thermometers.
Most modern thermometers use the Celsius scale, invented
by Anders Celsius in 1742.

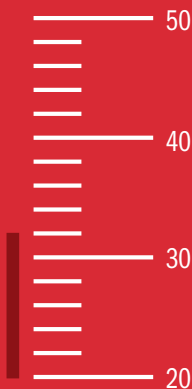
The Celsius scale uses the freezing point and boiling point of pure water
as its basis. It divides the temperature between the two points into
100 steps or 'degrees'. Temperatures are normally abbreviated to, for
example, 19°C, which means 19 degrees on the Celsius scale, or, in
other words, 19 degrees above freezing point of water.

The freezing point of water is referred to as 0°C and the boiling point of
water as 100°C.

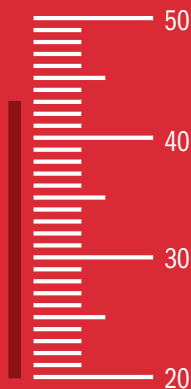
The most common thermometers consist of a long glass tube with liquid
at one end. As the liquid gets hotter, it expands and travels further up
the tube. The Celsius scale is marked along the tube and the mark at
the end of the liquid shows the temperature.

Depending on what they are going to be used for, nearly all
thermometers have at least every tenth degree numbered. Some smaller
thermometers are too small to have every single degree marked. Larger,
high accuracy models may have every half-degree marked.

The diagram shows part of three different scales that you'll often find.
Look at each and see if you can work out the temperature readings.



Every 10 degrees
is divided into
5 sections,
each section is
2 degrees.



Every 10 degrees
is divided into
10 sections,
each section is
1 degree.



Every 10 degrees
is divided into
20 sections,
each section is
half a degree.