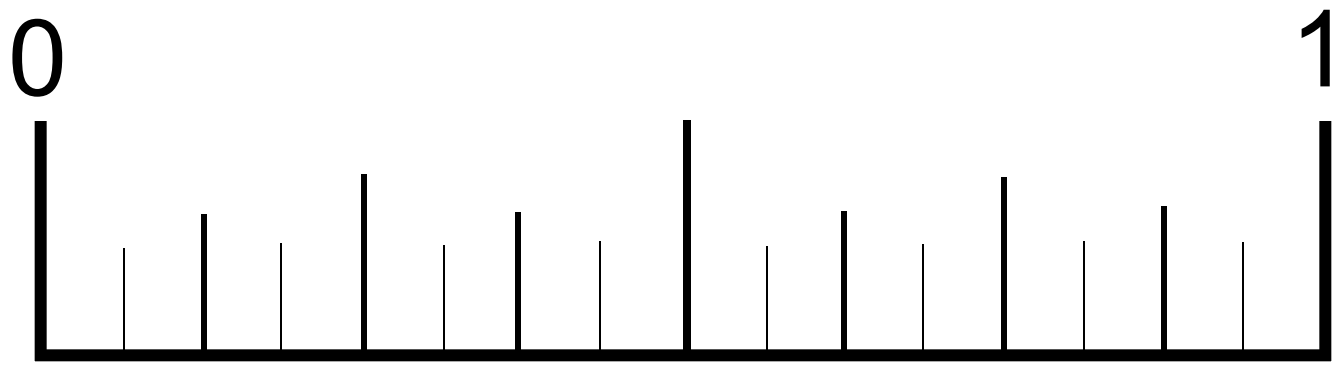
Standard Measurement

All measurement takes into account space which remains constant.

Unlike the metric system, standard measurement is not based on tens and does not use meters, centimeters or millimeters.

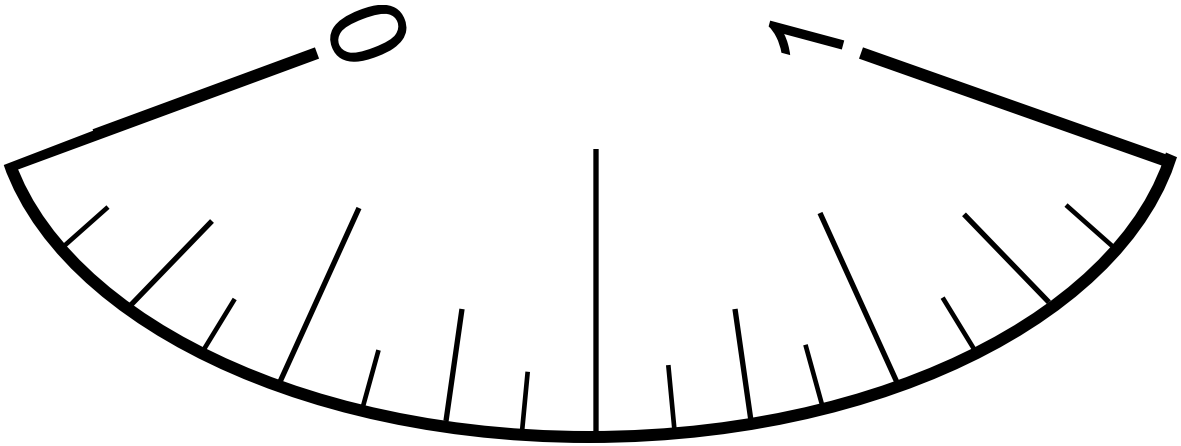
Give an Inch



This represents the inch scale.

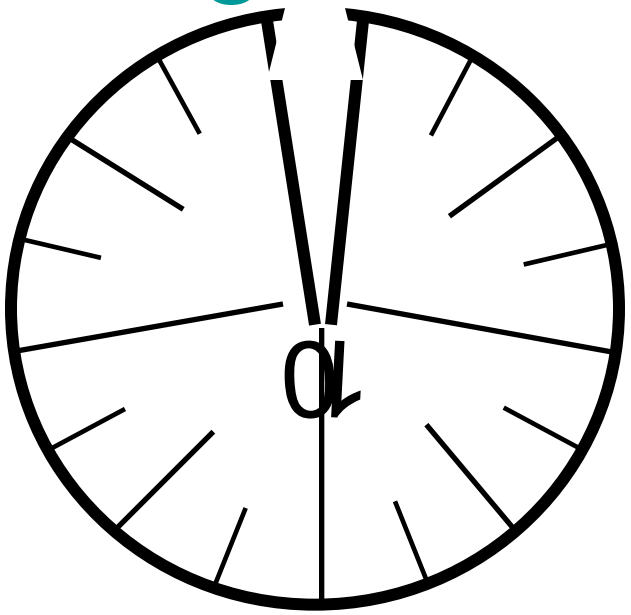
The standard measurement system is still used by most woodworkers. The inch is divided into fractions.

Dividing the Inch



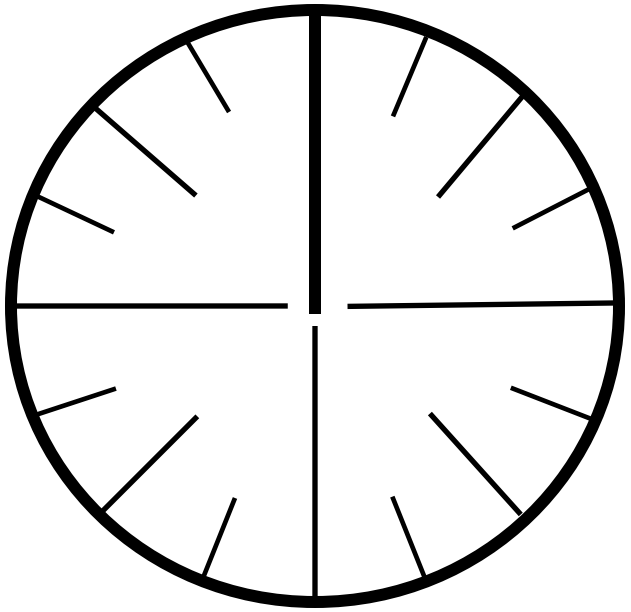
Let’s bend the inch into a circle and look at it as a pie graph.

Dividing the Inch



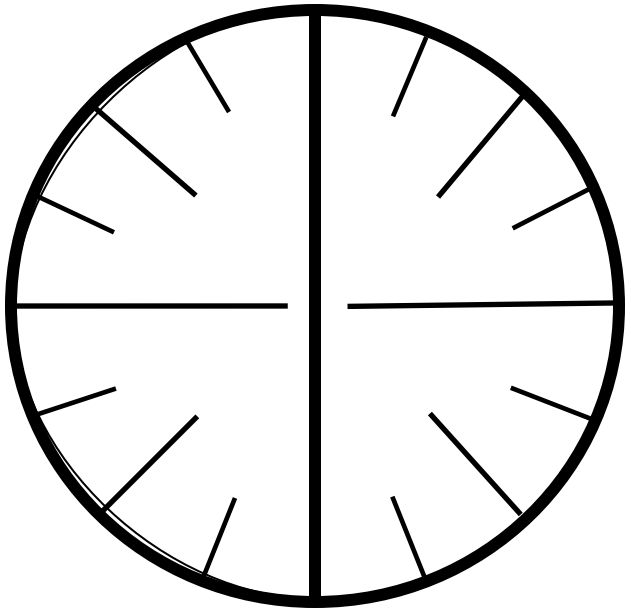
Let’s bend the inch into a circle and look at it as a pie graph.

Dividing the Inch



Let’s bend the inch into a circle and look at it as a pie graph.

One Half

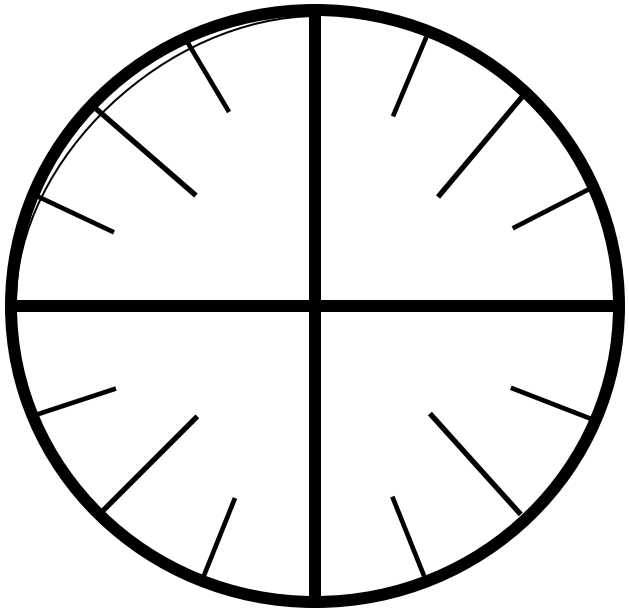


Cut the circle into two parts.

½ means one of two (parts).

1/2 is also 8/16, 4/8, & 2/4, but never use those terms to describe 1/2.
Always reduce the fraction.

One Fourth

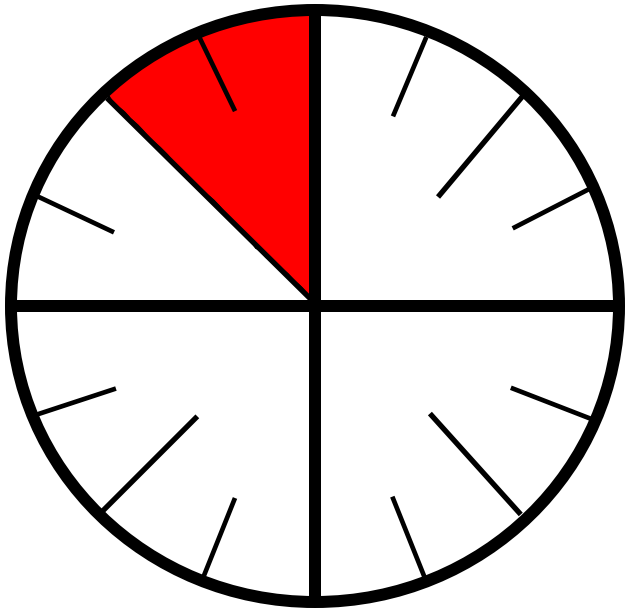


In four parts (quarters or fourths).

¼ means one of four.

1/4 is also 4/16 & 2/8, but never use those terms to describe 1/4.
Always reduce the fraction.

One Eighth

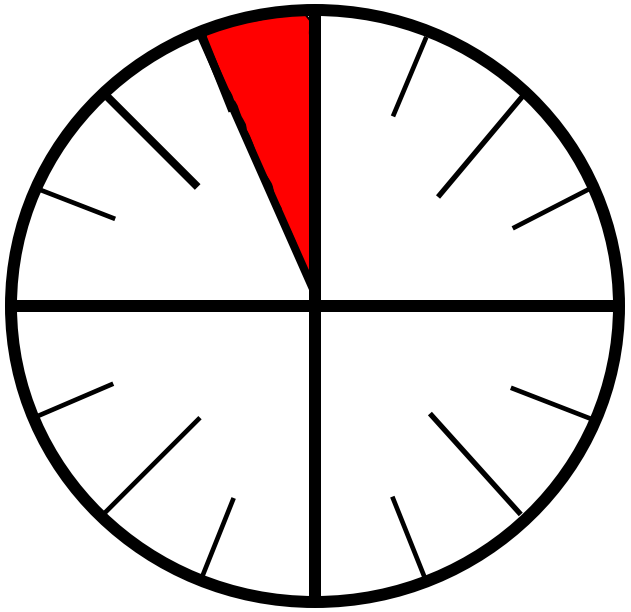


Dividing into eight makes eight parts.

1/8 is one of eight.

1/8 is also 2/16, but never use those terms to describe 1/8.
Always reduce the fraction.

One Sixteenth



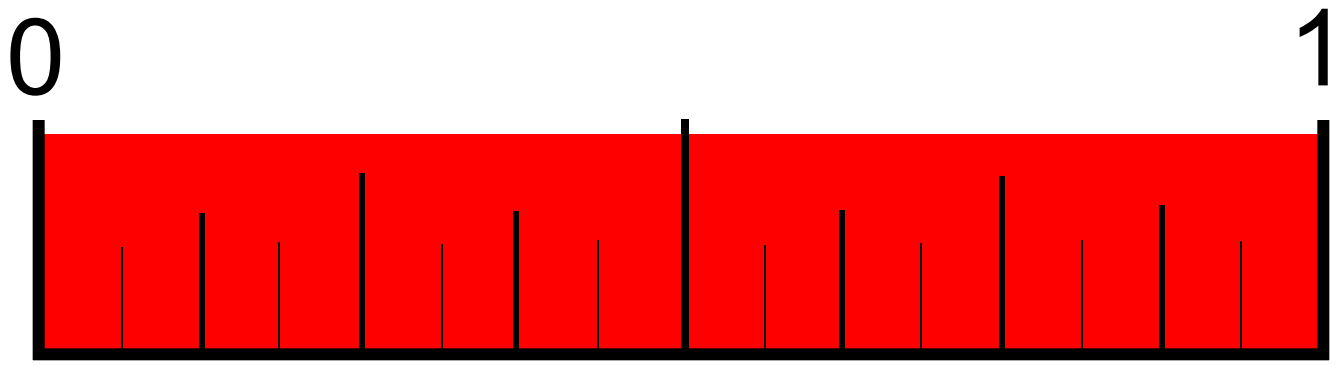
Sixteen parts, usually the smallest division used in our woodworking class.

1/16 is one of sixteen.

One Half Inch

Cut into two parts.

½ is one of two.

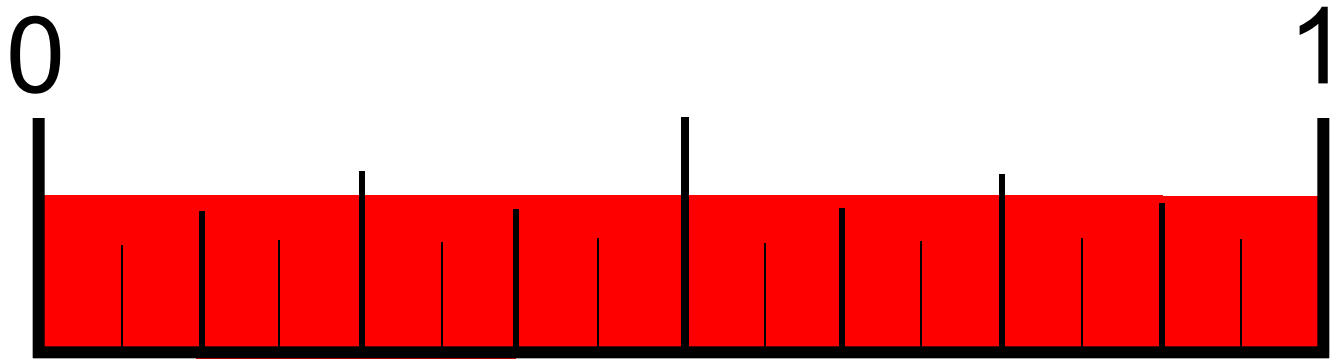


One Quarter Inch

Cut into four parts.

¼ is one of four.

Because we measure space, one forth can fall anywhere.



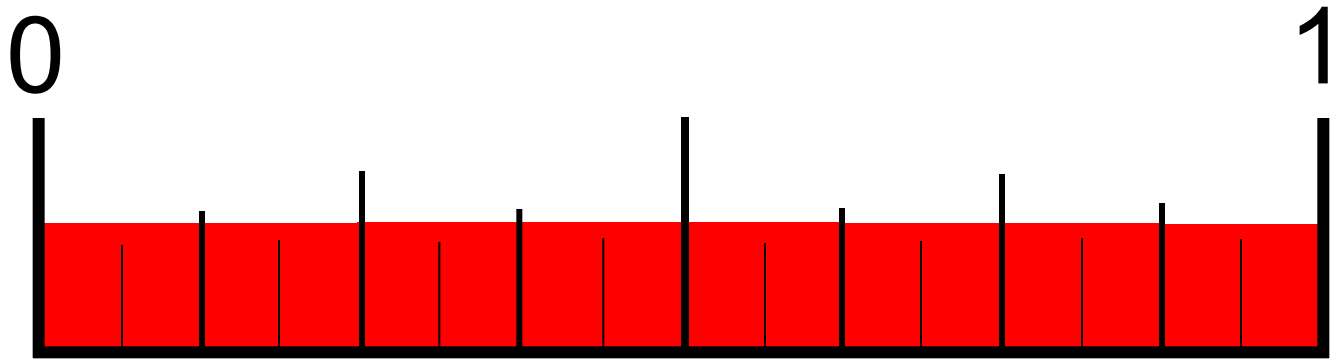
To help see groupings, the dividing lines are at different heights. 1/2 inch is still easy to determine.

One Eighth Inch

Cut into eight parts.

1/8 is one of eight.

Like previous space, 1/8 can be measured anywhere.

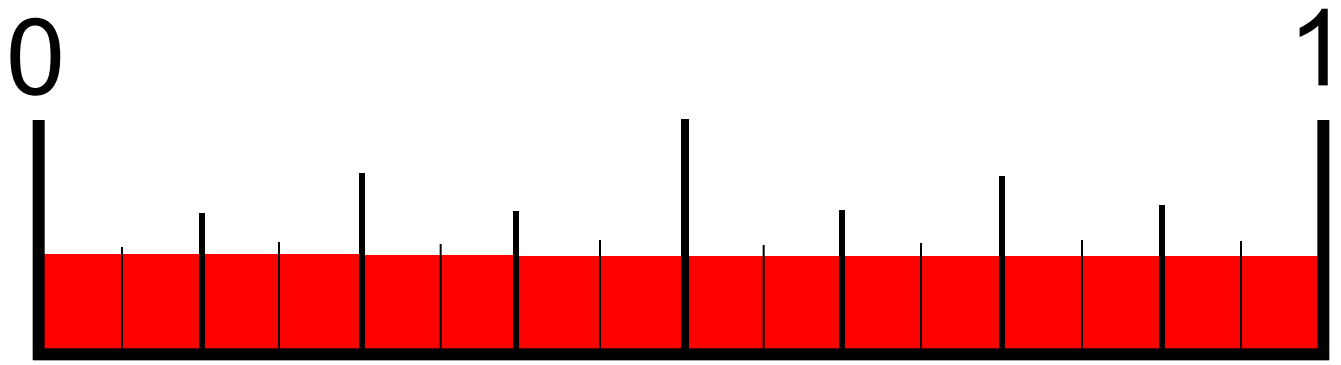


Notice that because of the different lengths of the dividing lines, ¼ and ½ are still easy to distinguish.

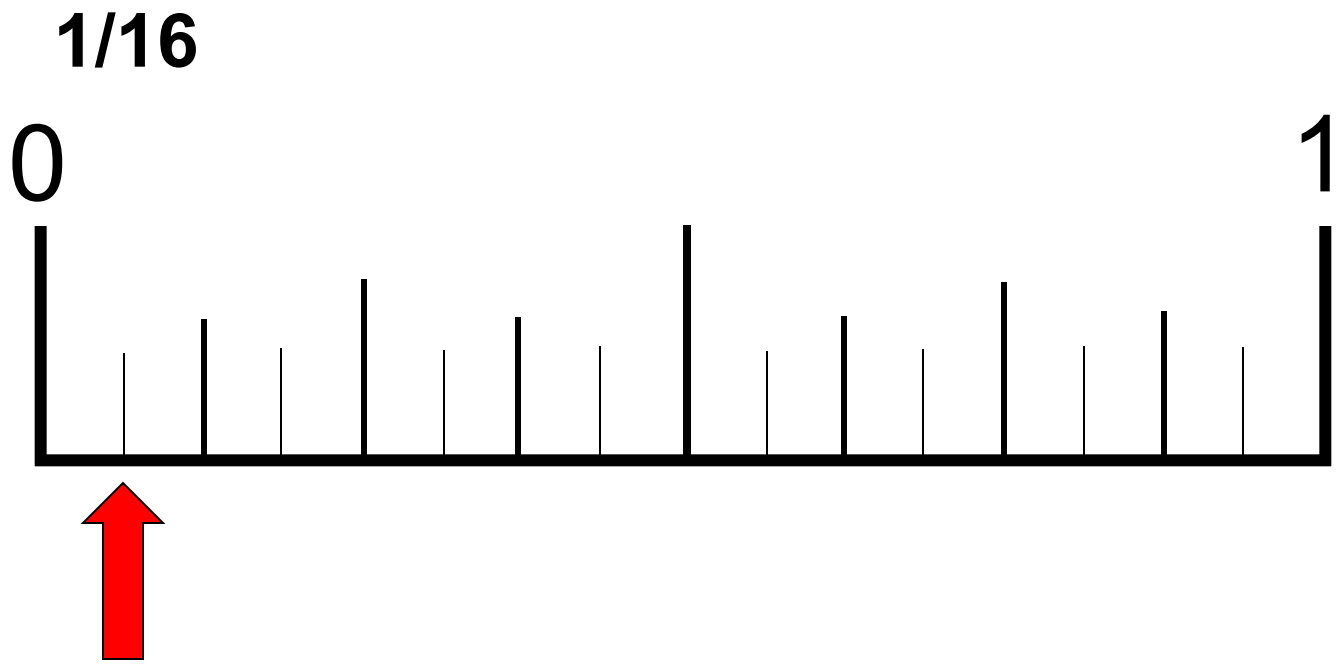
One Sixteenth Inch

Cut into sixteen parts.

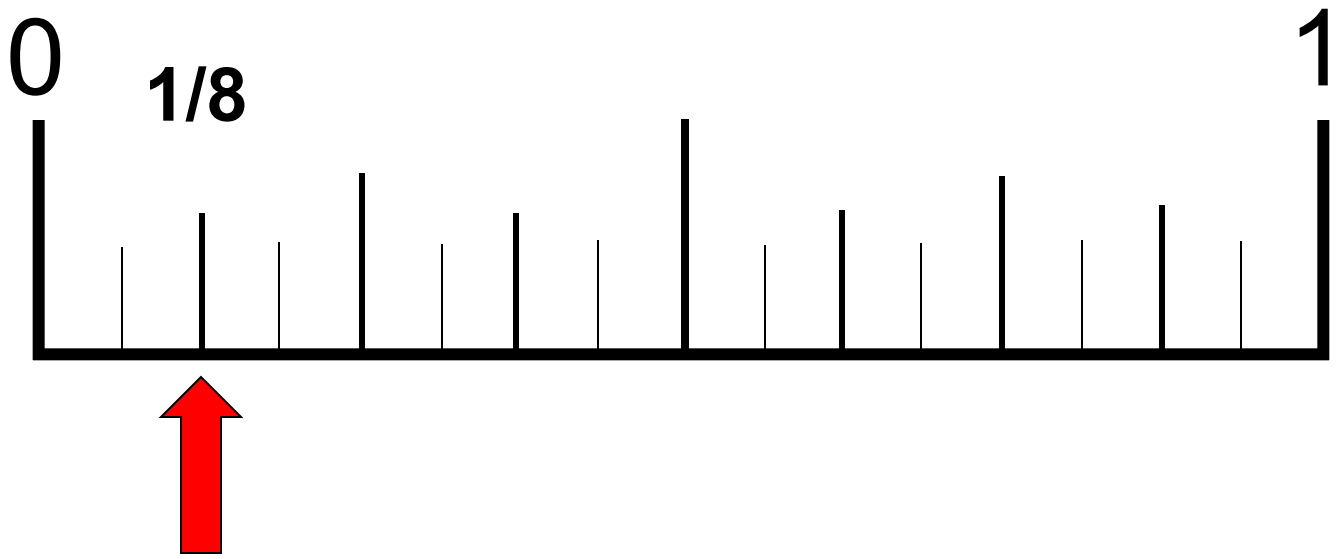
1/16 is one of sixteen.



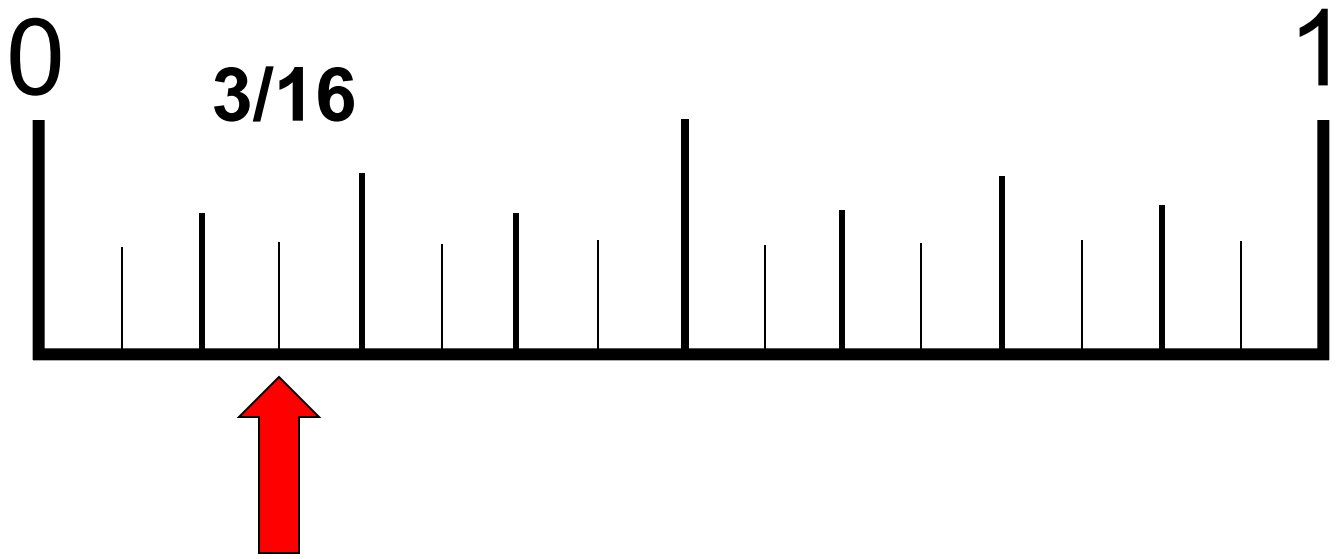
One Sixteenth



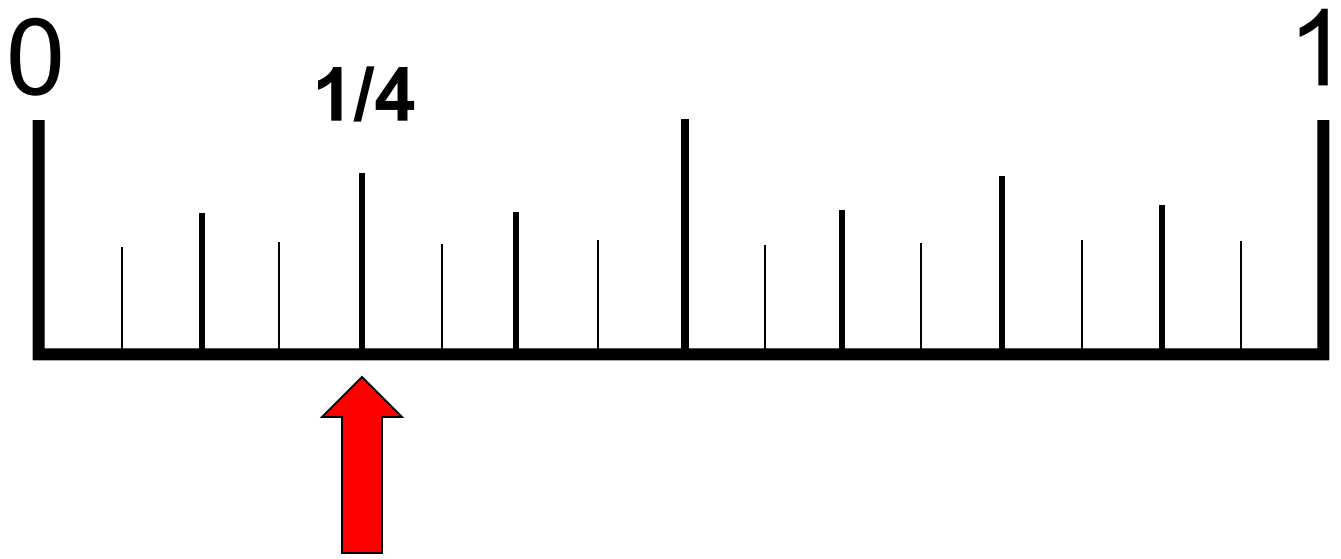
One Eighth



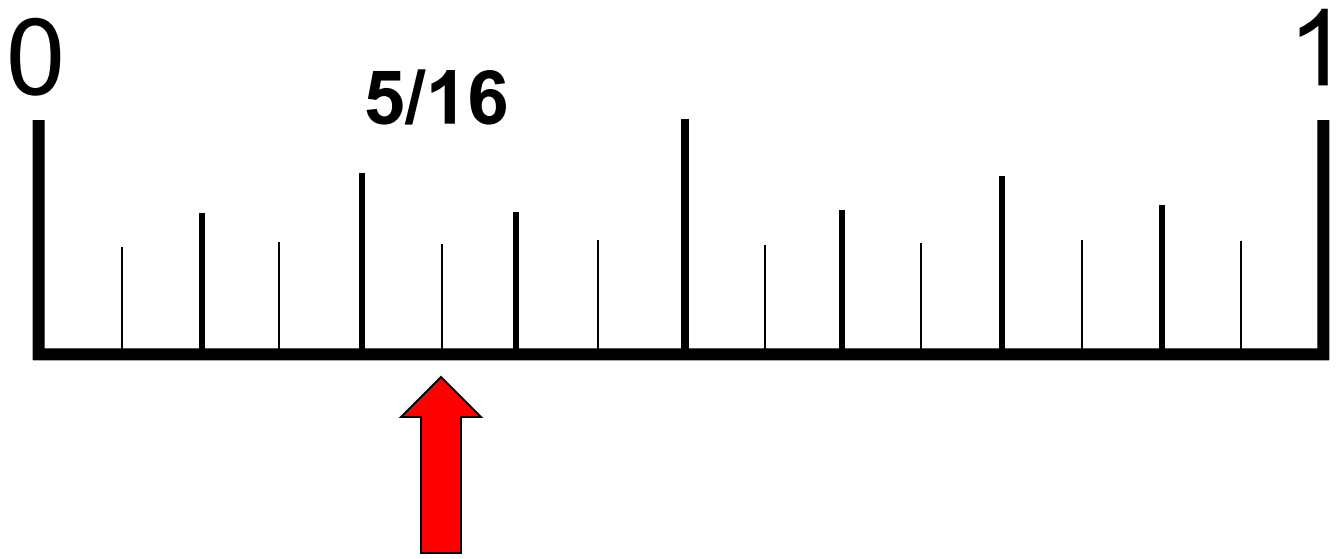
Three Sixteenths



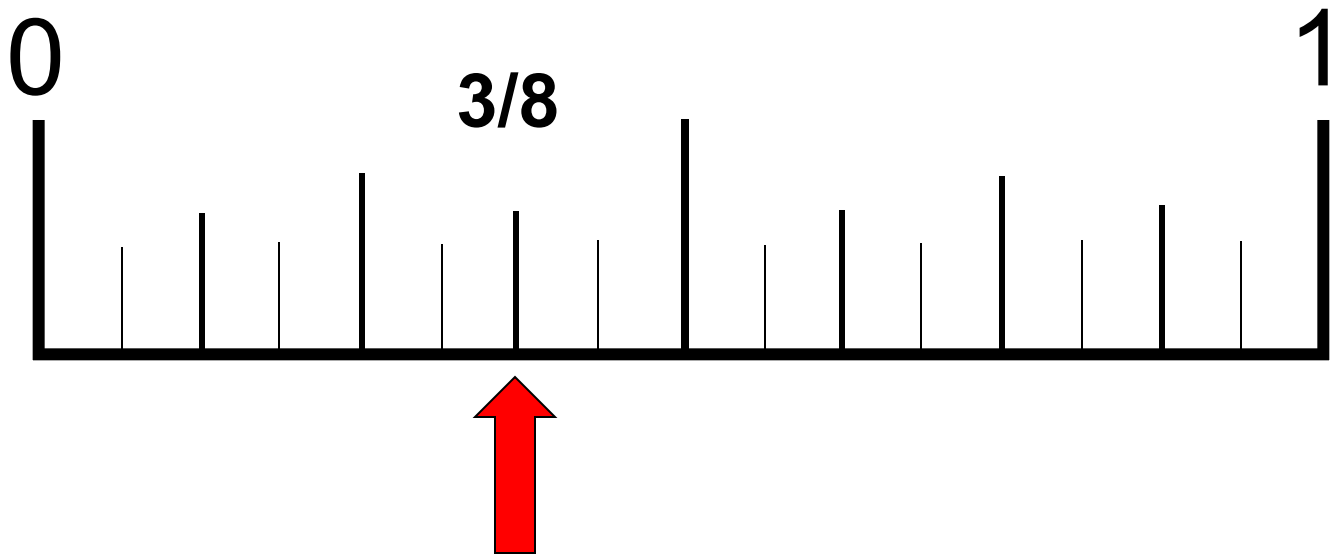
One fourth



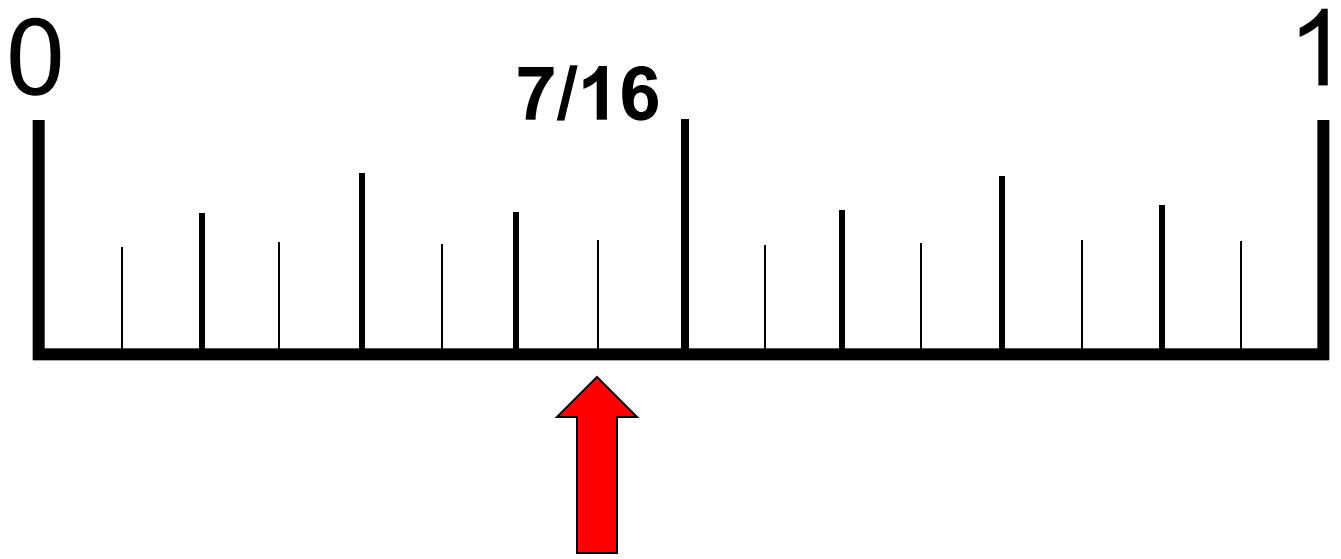
Five Sixteenths



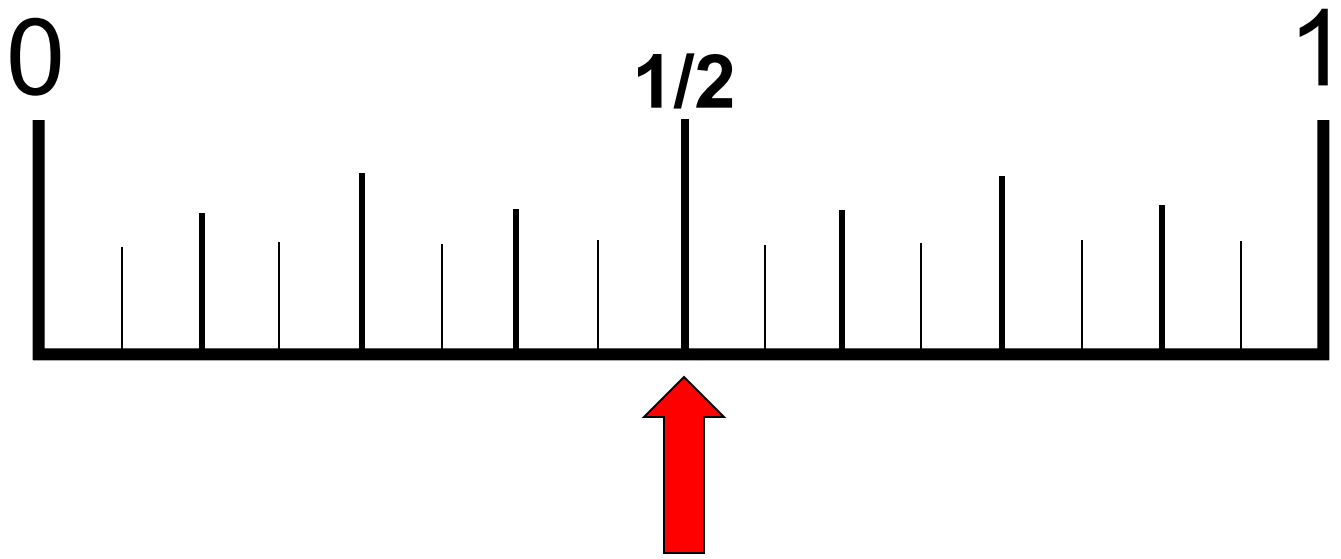
Three Eighths



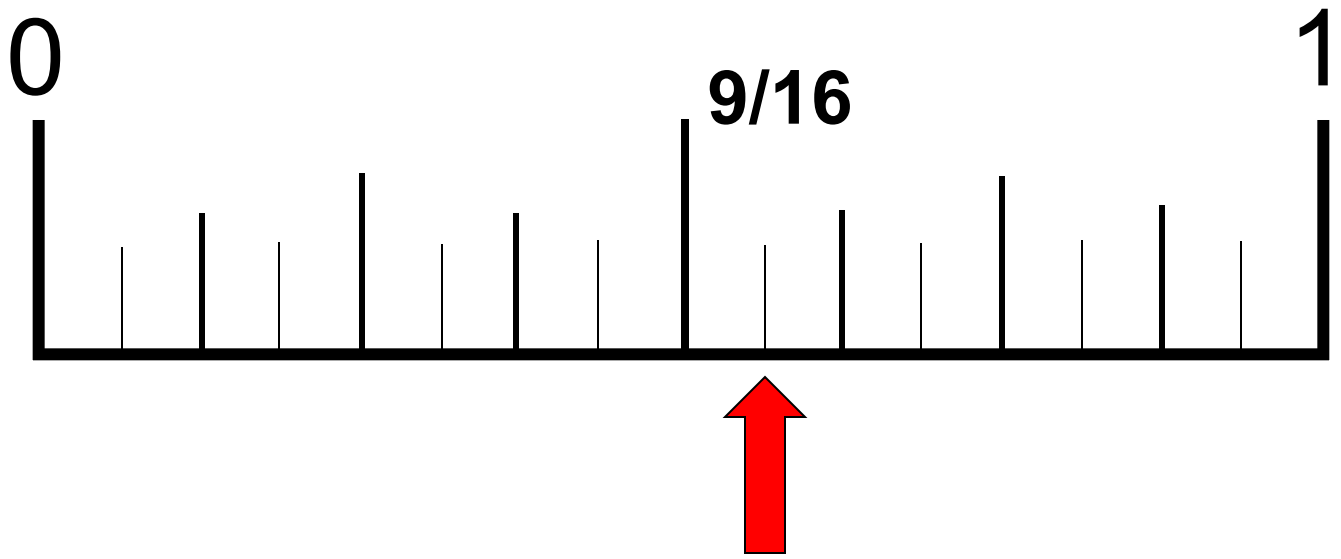
Seven Sixteenths



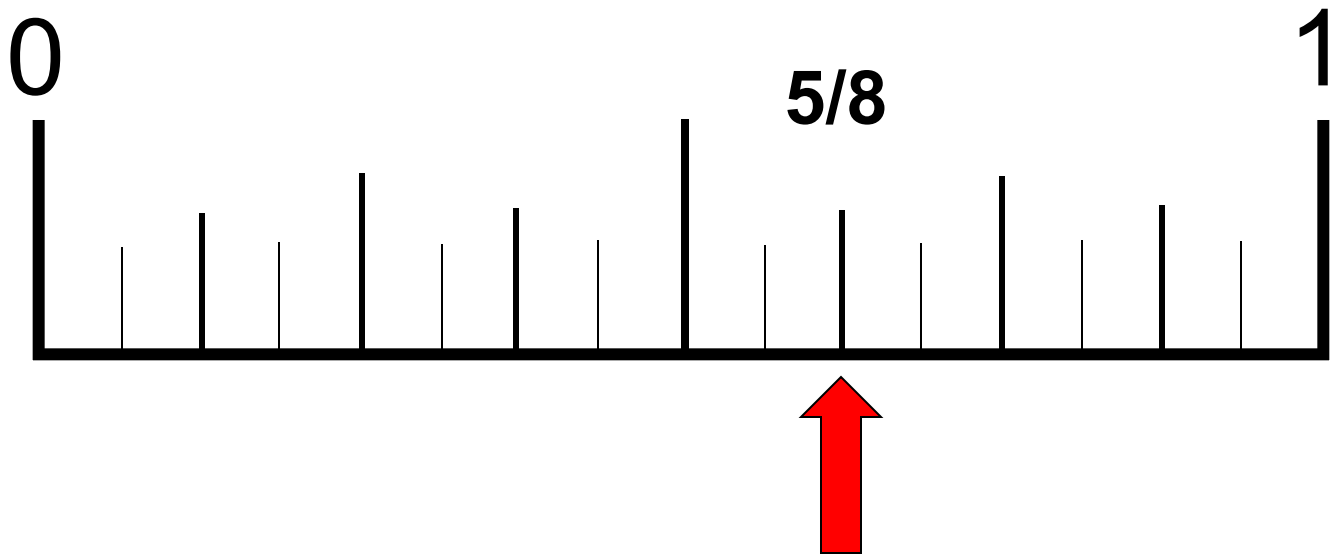
One Half



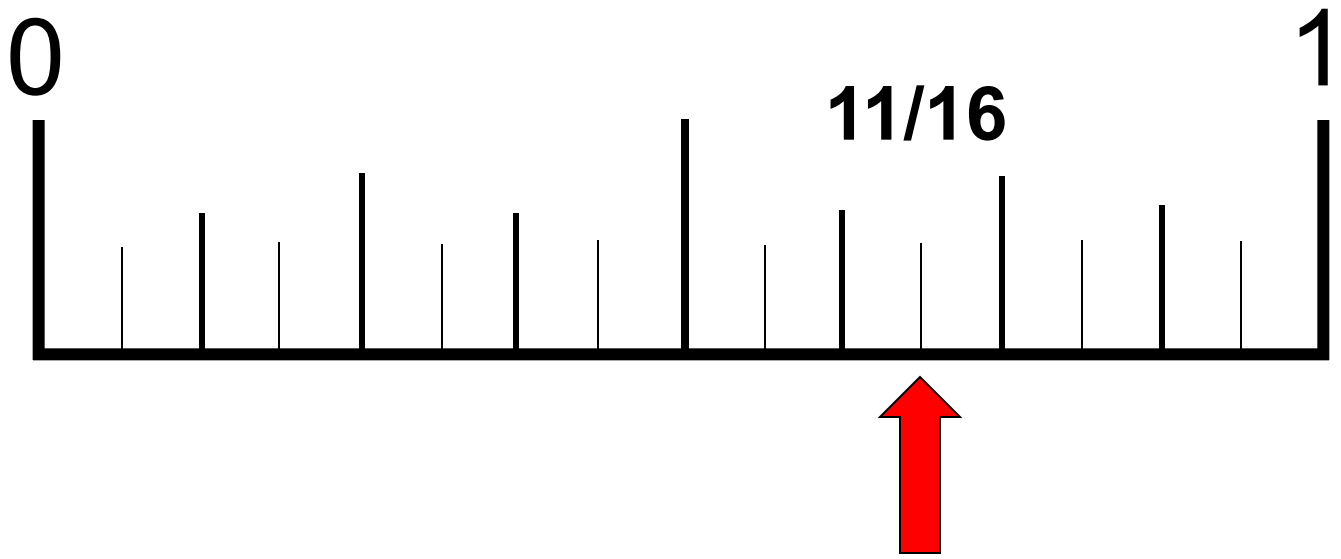
Nine Sixteenths



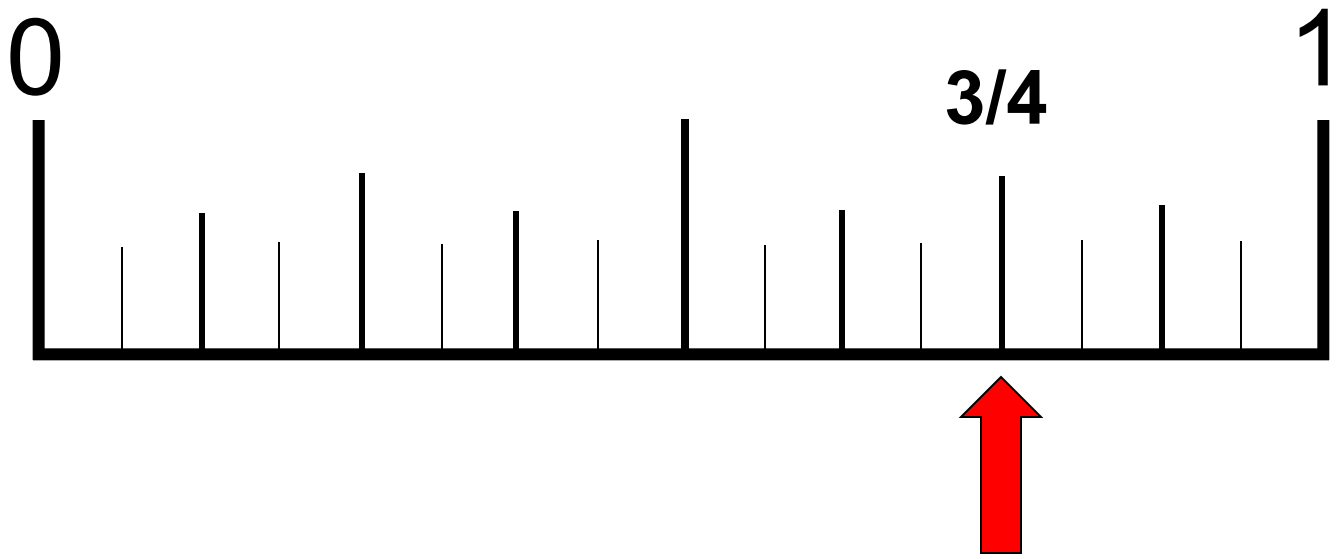
Five Eighths



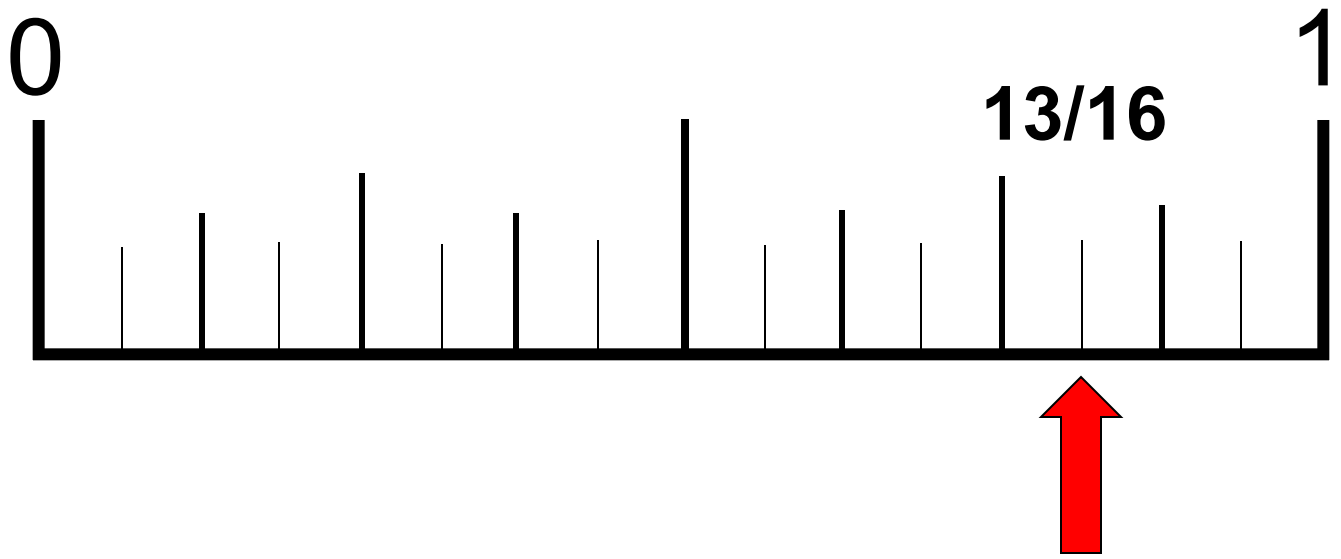
Eleven Sixteenths



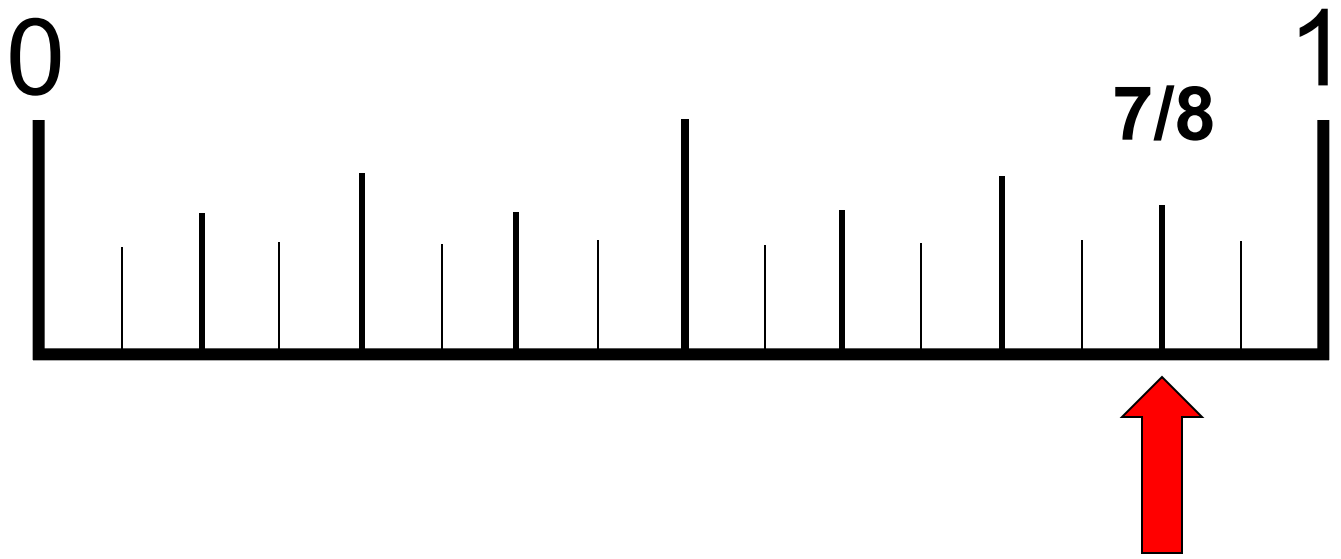
Three Fourths



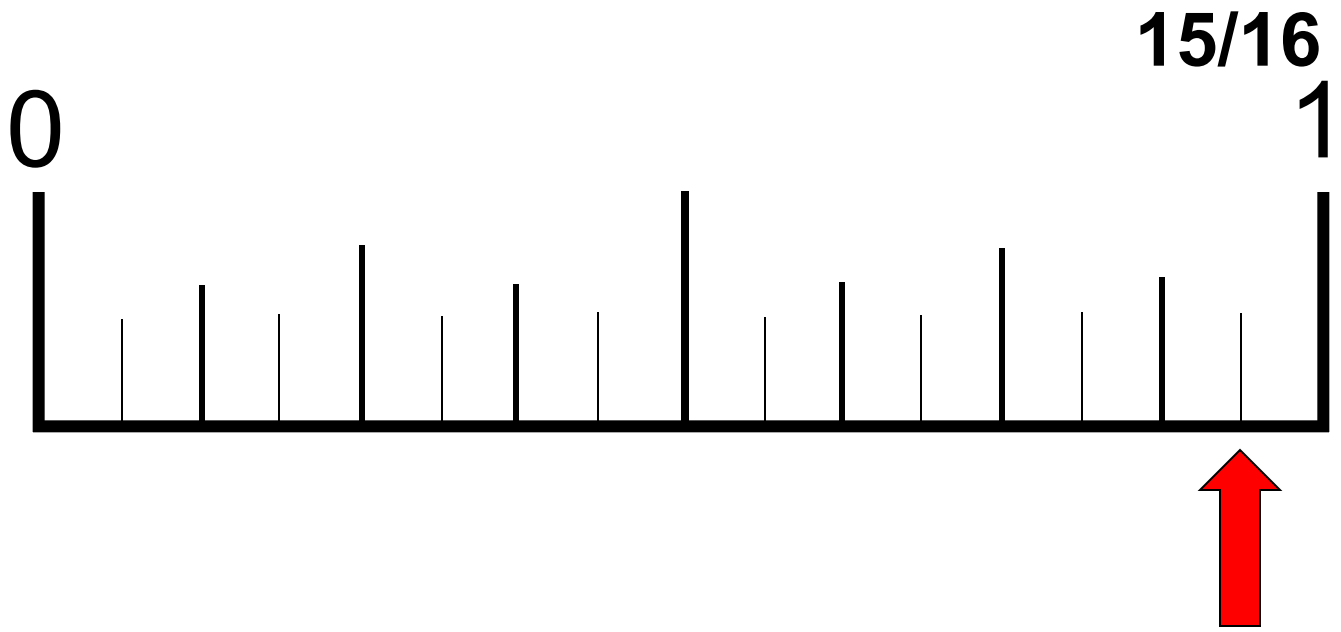
Thirteen Sixteenths



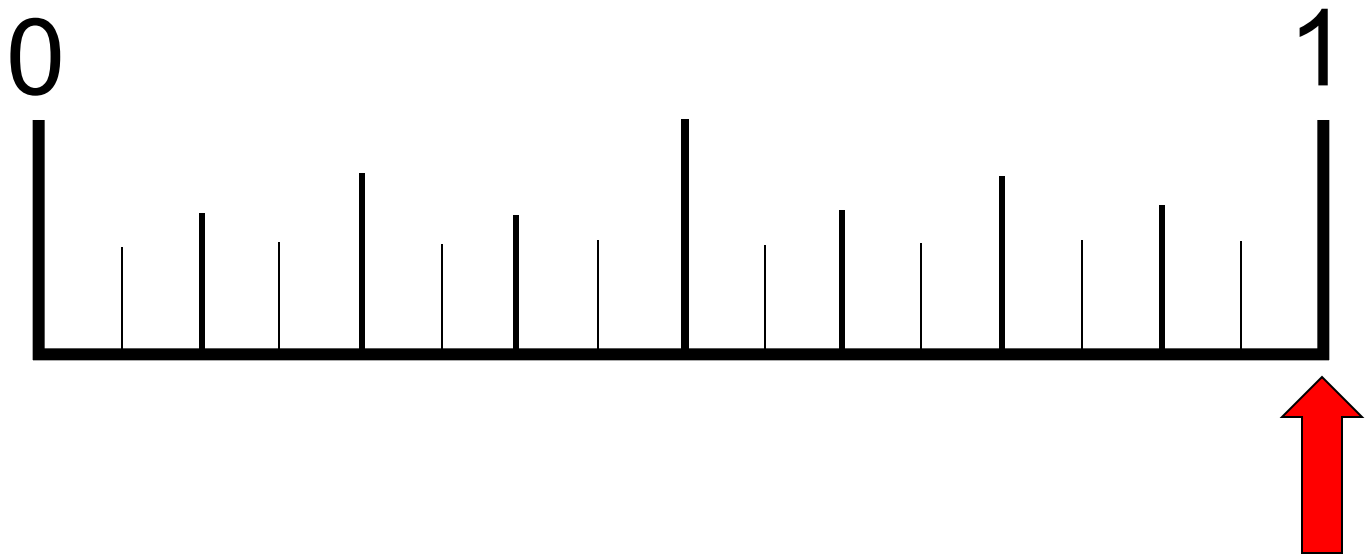
Seven Eighths



Fifteen Sixteenths



One Inch



Some things to remember!

- The standard system uses fractions.
- 12 inches equals one foot.
- Reduce fractions to their lowest terms.
- Count space not lines.
- Practice makes measuring easier.

The End