

Meter Reading Practice Sheet

Some meters are digital - they look like the odometer on a car. Other meters have dials. Electric meters with dials are read the same, regardless of how many dials there are. Every dial has a pointer and the numbers 0 to 9. Below is an example of a five-dial electric meter.



Electric Meter

Notice that the pointers on the first, third and fifth dial move in the same direction as a hand of a clock. The second and fourth pointers move in the opposite direction.



When reading your electric meter, keep these hints in mind:

- Stand directly in front of the meter so that you can clearly see the location of each pointer.
- Read the numbers from RIGHT to LEFT, and write them down in the same order.
- If the pointer is between two numbers, read the number the pointer has just passed, always the lowest number.
- If the pointer is between 9 and 0, always read 9.
- If the pointer appears to be exactly on a number, read the next lowest number unless the pointer to its right has passed zero. Since the first dial has no dial to its right, the number must be read independently.
- If your meter has digital numbers, use those as your reading.

Each meter is numbered make note of your meter number.

What is the reading of the example electric meter shown below?



- A. The pointer on the far right is directly on number 5. Read as 5.
- B. The second pointer from the right has just passed 9, and is between 9 and 0. Read as 9.
- C. The next dial has passed 8, and is between 8 and 9. Again, read the smaller number which the pointer has just passed, which is 8.
- D. The pointer on the next dial looks like it is right on the 4. But, the dial to its right has not passed zero. So, you would read this dial as 3.
- E. The pointer on the far left dial has passed 8, and is between 8 and 9. Read the smaller number which the pointer just passed, which is 8.

Current reading: **83895** Last week's reading: **83770** Electricity use this week = **125**

The difference of **125 kilowatt hours** have been used since the last reading.

If your meter has a constant or multiplier it is shown on the nameplate. The reading on the meter may be 1/40 or 1/10 of the energy used. Multiply the subtracted use by the constant to determine actual energy use.