

Real-Life Application: When Will I Ever Use This?

For use with pages 96–101

Temperature Scales

The most common temperature scales are Fahrenheit and Celsius.

The United States is one of the few countries in the world that does not predominantly use the Celsius scale for everyday temperature measurement. In some cases, both types of measurement are used. Weather reports, for example, usually give a temperature reading in both Celsius and Fahrenheit. Nevertheless, in the United States, the Fahrenheit scale is more commonly used than the Celsius scale.

The Swedish astronomer Anders Celsius developed the Celsius scale in the mid-1700s while the Fahrenheit scale was developed around the same time by a German physicist, Gabriel Daniel Fahrenheit. On a Celsius scale, 0° is the freezing point of water and 100° is its boiling point. This is different on a Fahrenheit scale, where the freezing point of water is 32° and its boiling point is 212° .

In Exercises 1–4, use the following information.

It is sometimes necessary to convert degrees Celsius to degrees Fahrenheit or vice versa. To convert from Celsius to Fahrenheit, you can use the formula

$$F = \frac{9}{5}C + 32$$

where C is the temperature in degrees Celsius and F is the temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

- Convert each of the following measurements to degrees Fahrenheit.
 - 20°C
 - 30°C
 - -5°C
- Solve the conversion formula for C and write a reason for each step.
- Write another equation that is equal to your answer in Exercise 2. What property should you have used to obtain your equation?
- Convert each of the following measurements to degrees Celsius.
 - 95°F
 - 14°F
 - -17.5°F