



Drama Title: The Case of the Missing 54ml

Theme: Unit Conversion (Metric vs. Imperial) & Global Standardization

Time: Approx. 10 Minutes

Characters:

1. **Detective Eric:** A math-obsessed detective who carries a calculator and a measuring cup.
2. **Mr. 946 (The Milk Carton):** A student wearing a large milk carton costume (labeled 946ml / 1 Quart).
3. **Sir 1-Litre:** An elegant, posh character representing the European standard (1000ml).
4. **The Factory Manager:** A stressed worker with a hard hat and a clipboard.
5. **The "Little Siblings" (2 students):** Representing the 236ml and 473ml cartons.

Scene 1: The Supermarket Scandal

(Setting: A supermarket aisle. Detective Eric is using a magnifying glass to inspect milk cartons.)

Eric: (Shouting) Stop! Nobody move! I've discovered a massive mathematical conspiracy!

Sir 1-Litre: (Walking in elegantly) My dear Detective, what is all this noise about? You're scaring the yogurt.

Eric: Look at this! (Points to Mr. 946) You call yourself a "Large Milk," but you are only **946ml!** A true "Large" should be **1000ml**—a full Litre! Where are the missing 54 millilitres? Who stole them?!

Mr. 946: Hey! Watch your mouth, Detective! I'm not a thief. I'm an "International Standard."

Scene 2: The Ghost of the "Quart"

Eric: International Standard? 946 is an ugly number! It's not divisible by 10, it's not round... it's a math nightmare!

Mr. 946: That's because you are looking at me through "Metric Glasses." In America and the old days, they didn't use Litres. They used **Quarts**.

Eric: A "Quart"? Is that some kind of ancient magic spell?

Mr. 946: (Sighs) No. **1 US Liquid Quart** is exactly the amount of milk I hold. If you convert it to your Metric system...

Eric: (Typing furiously on his calculator) Let me see... 1 Quart... multiplied by 0.94635... (Gasps) Great Pythagoras! 1 Quart = 946.35 millilitres!

Mr. 946: Exactly! I'm not "short" of 1 Litre. I am exactly "One Full Quart." I'm just a victim of a bad translation!

Scene 3: The Family Reunion (236ml & 473ml)

Eric: But wait! There's more! I found your little siblings in the fridge. They have weird numbers too! (Points to the two students entering).

Student 1 (236ml): Hi! I'm the 8-ounce baby. People call me "One Cup."

Eric: 8 ounces? (Calculates) $8 \times 29.57 = 236.56$. So you are 236ml!

Student 2 (473ml): And I'm the 16-ounce teenager. People call me "One Pint."

Eric: 16 ounces? (Calculates) That's $236 \times 2 = 472$... wait, why is the label 473ml?

Mr. 946: Because of **Rounding**, Detective! We round up to the nearest whole number to keep the labels tidy.

- 1 Cup (8 oz) = 236ml
- 1 Pint (2 Cups) = 473ml
- 1 Quart (2 Pints) = 946ml

Eric: It's a binary family! 1, 2, 4... it's all doubling!

Scene 4: The Manager's Truth

(The Factory Manager enters, looking tired.)

Eric: Manager! Now that we know the secret, why don't you just change the machines to 1000ml? Hong Kong uses the Metric system!

Manager: Oh, Detective, if only math was that simple in the business world!

1. **The Machines:** Our filling machines are imported. Their "brains" are programmed for 1 Quart. Changing them would cost millions!
2. **The Packaging:** Look at the "Gable Top" (the roof shape). The paper dimensions are calculated perfectly for 946ml. If we add 54ml, the carton gets taller. If the carton gets taller, it won't fit on the supermarket shelves!

Sir 1-Litre: So, you're saying my "perfect" 1000ml body is actually a nightmare for your shelves?

Manager: Exactly. 946ml might be a "weird" number, but it's the number that keeps the global milk trade moving!

Scene 5: The Finale

Eric: (To the audience) So, citizens of Hong Kong! Next time you pour milk into your cereal, remember... you aren't just drinking milk. You are drinking a 200-year-old math problem!

Mr. 946: I'm a Quart!

Student 2: I'm a Pint!

Student 1: I'm a Cup!

Sir 1-Litre: And I'm still the most expensive!

All Characters: (Together) "Metric or Imperial, Math is the cereal!"

(All characters bow as the "Milk Family" stands in order of size: 236 -> 473 -> 946 -> 1000.)

[CURTAIN CLOSES]

💡 Director's Notes for Students:

- **Visual Aid:** Use large cardboard cutouts for the milk cartons. Clearly write the **Ounce (oz)** and **Millilitre (ml)** values on them so the audience can see the conversion.
- **Math Tip:** In the dialogue, make sure the "Detective" emphasizes the calculation. This helps the audience understand that **946** isn't a random number—it's a result of multiplication.
- **Humor:** Play up the "Sir 1-Litre" character as very arrogant and the "946 Milk Carton" as a hardworking, misunderstood guy.