

# How to “Read” a Ruler

## ...*not* aligned with the zero-line of the ruler.

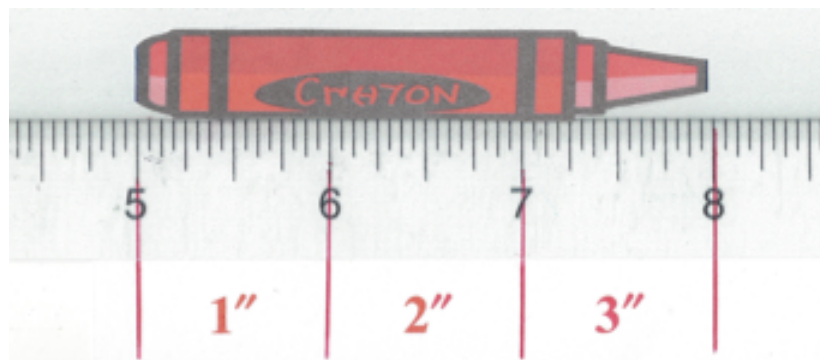
Occasionally, people are called upon to measure an object whose left edge is *not* lined up with the zero-line of the ruler.

How long is *this* red crayon? (It’s the same crayon as the one on page 10.)



Here, the left edge of the red crayon is *not* aligned with the zero-line of the ruler; it is aligned with the five-inch (5”) line. This means that we have to start at the five-inch line and count off to the right:

- from 5 to 6 is the first inch (1”);
- from 6 to 7 is the second inch (2”); and,
- from 7 to 8—notice that the right edge of the red crayon ends *exactly* at the 8-inch line—is the third inch (3”).



The red crayon, *from its beginning edge on the left to its ending edge on the right*, is **STILL** three inches (3”) long—and we shouldn’t be surprised at this because only its location on the ruler changed!