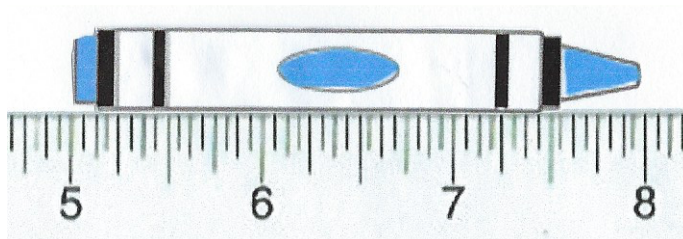# How to "Read" a Ruler

B. **"Reading" a *whole*-inch measurement when the right edge of an object lies *exactly* on a line and its left edge is <u>*not*</u> aligned with the zero-line. *(This is sometimes known as the "broken ruler" problem.)***
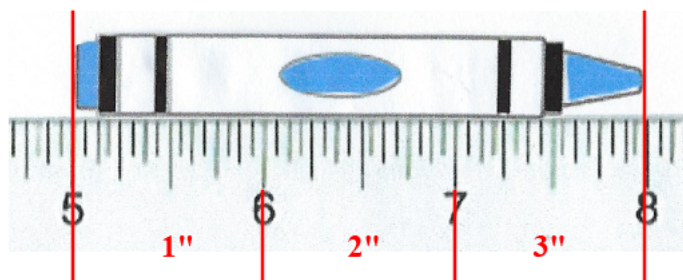
Occasionally, people are called upon to measure an object whose left edge is ***not*** lined up with the *zero*-line of the ruler.

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

Here, the left edge of the blue 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 blue crayon ends *exactly* at the 8-inch line—is the third inch (3″).

The blue 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!