

# Re: The Speed of Light

---

*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.physics.relativity/2006-10/msg01683.html>

---

- *From:* Ben Rudiak-Gould <[br276deleteme@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:br276deleteme@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 19 Oct 2006 19:17:59 +0100
- 

PD wrote:

The speed of light is 1. We just have goofy units that make it seem like it's an oddball number. [...]

Expanding on what PD wrote, the reason we use those units is that they match characteristic human distance and time scales. To an order of magnitude, a meter is about the height of the human body, and a second is about the length of a "cognitive moment". The reason the speed of light is so large in those units is that we think slowly. If we were half as large, we'd probably think twice as fast (since less time would be needed for signals to travel the length of the cranium), so our units of length and time would both be about half as long, and the speed of light in those units would be about the same.

— Ben

.