Lesson 9 Summary

If we want to create a scale drawing of a room's floor plan that has the scale "1 inch to 4 feet," we can divide the actual lengths in the room (in feet) by 4 to find the corresponding lengths (in inches) for our drawing.

1 inch
4 feet
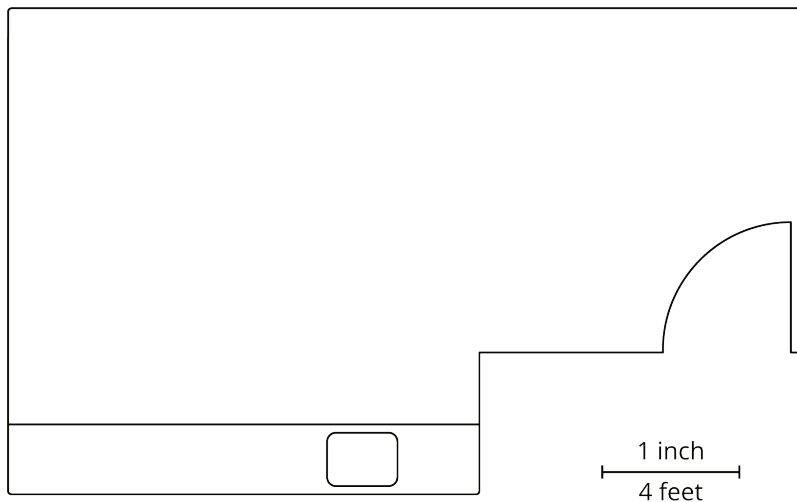
Suppose the longest wall is 15 feet long. We should draw a line 3.75 inches long to represent this wall, because $15 \div 4 = 3.75$.

There is more than one way to express this scale.

These three scales are all equivalent, since they represent the same relationship between lengths on a drawing and actual lengths:

- 1 inch to 4 feet
- $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to 2 feet
- $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to 1 foot

Any of these scales can be used to find actual lengths and scaled lengths (lengths on a drawing). For instance, we can tell that, at this scale, an 8-foot long wall should be 2 inches long on the drawing because $\frac{1}{4} \cdot 8 = 2$.

The size of a scale drawing is influenced by the choice of scale. For example, here is another scale drawing of the same room using the scale 1 inch to 8 feet.

1 inch
8 feet
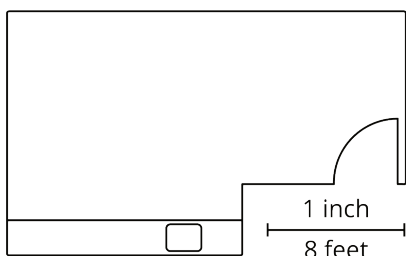
Notice this drawing is smaller than the previous one. Since one inch on this drawing represents twice as much actual distance, each side length only needs to be half as long as it was in the first scale drawing.