Exercise 74

Milk is sold by the liter in many countries. What is the volume of exactly 1/2 gal of milk in liters?

Solution

Start with 1/2 gal and use conversion factors to write the units in liters.

$$\frac{1}{2}~\text{gal} \times \frac{4~\text{quarts}}{1~\text{gal}} \times \frac{1~L}{1.0567~\text{quarts}} \approx 1.8927~L$$

Note that the volume is exactly 1/2 gal, so it has infinitely many significant figures. The answer is rounded to five significant figures because there are only five significant figures in 1.0567 quarts. It's actually the case that

$$1 L = 1.056688149...$$
 quarts.