Things at the nanoscale are measured in tiny nanometers. A nanometer is one billionth of a meter.

But, really, what does it mean to be a billionth of something? The biggest tube has one billion beads in it. Just one bead out of that entire tube is one billionth of the beads—that's a very small amount.

Now imagine cutting a meter (which is about three feet long) into a billion tiny pieces. Those are nanometers and are incredibly small.