

Current

Moving electric charges, eg electrons moving through a metal wire.



Electrical component

A device in an electric circuit, such as a battery, switch or lamp.



Diode

An electrical device that allows current to flow in one direction only.

Charge

Property of matter that causes a force when near another charge. Charge comes in two forms, positive and negative. For example, a negative charge causes a repulsive force on a neighbouring negative charge.



Filament

A thin, high resistance wire that gets hot and glows when a current flows through it causing it to emit heat and light. Filaments are used in some types of bulb and electrical heaters.



Thermistor

An electrical device whose resistance decreases as its temperature increases.

Ammeter

A device used to measure electric current.



Direct current

Also called dc. An electric current that flows in one direction only.



Alternating current

Also called ac. An electric current that regularly changes its direction and size.

Potential difference

The potential difference (or voltage) of a supply is a measure of the energy given to the charge carriers in a circuit. Units = volts (V). This is the voltage between two points that makes an electric current flow between them.



Electrocute

Cause injury or death by an electric shock.



Frequency

The number of waves produced each second. The unit of frequency is hertz (Hz).

Repulsion

When two or more things are forced apart, eg the north pole of a magnet is repelled by the north pole of another magnet.



Attraction

When two or more things come together, eg the north pole of a magnet is attracted to the south pole of a magnet.



Electric field

Area surrounding an electric charge that may influence other charged particles.