

Work done

The amount of energy it takes to do a task. Measured in joules (J). For example, the work done in raising a mass 10 m would be equal to the gain in potential energy of the mass.



Dissipated

The spreading out and transfer of energy stores into less useful forms, such as thermal energy causing the surroundings to heat up. Dissipated energy is often referred to as 'wasted' energy, since it is not transferred to a useful output.



Elastic potential energy

Energy stored in squashed, stretched or twisted materials.

Internal energy

The total kinetic energy and potential energy of the particles in an object.



Joules

The unit of work or energy, written as J.



Power

The energy transferred each second, measured in watts (W).
Power = work done $\div$ time taken.

Fold

Watt

The unit of power.



Efficiency

The fraction of the energy supplied to a device which is transferred in a useful form.



Conductor

A material which allows charge to move easily through it.

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Fold

Insulator

Material that does not allow charge or heat to pass through it easily.



Specific heat capacity

The amount of energy needed to raise the temperature of 1 kg of substance by 1°C



Fossil fuel

Natural, finite fuel formed from the remains of living organisms, eg oil, coal and natural gas.

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Renewable

Energy sources that are replenished and not exhausted, eg solar power.



Non-renewable

A resource that cannot be replaced when it is used up, such as oil, natural gas or coal.



Nuclear fuels

Radioactive materials, usually uranium or plutonium, used in nuclear reactors.