Bitesize

Fleming's left hand rule

ALYA	Hey! It's starting!!
AIYSHA	Why do they always do a light show? I just want to skip to the wrestling.
ALYA	Dunno. Generates excitement I guess?
ADA	In order to understand how a generator works, you must first understand induction.
AIYSHA	Perfect timing Ada. As usual.
ADA	You can generate an electric current with some copper wire, a magnet, and movement. If you move a magnet through a coil of copper wire, the movement, coupled with the magnetism interacting with the copper coil generates an electrical current. This is electromagnetic induction, or induction for short. Please note that induction does not occur if the magnet is stationary.
AIYSHA	Oh no, I forgot my notepad!
ALYA	But Ada did say "please note"! What on earth shall we do?
ADA	
	Sarcasm detected ignoring.
	Sarcasm detected ignoring. Induction also occurs if the magnet is stationary, but the coil is moving. The mains electrical grid is powered by generators. Generators use induction to generate electricity, which we all need and use from the mains electrical grid.
AIYSHA	Induction also occurs if the magnet is stationary, but the coil is moving. The mains electrical grid is powered by generators. Generators use induction to generate electricity, which we all need and use from the mains
AIYSHA ADA	Induction also occurs if the magnet is stationary, but the coil is moving. The mains electrical grid is powered by generators. Generators use induction to generate electricity, which we all need and use from the mains electrical grid.

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ADA	Using induction, a generator generates electricity via a magnet that is spinning inside coils of copper wire. However, the current is too high to be transferred across power lines. So, a transformer is used to decrease the current and increase the voltage. When alternating current flows through the first coil, it induces a changing magnetic field. This magnetic field travels through the iron core, and through the second coil. This creates a current in the second coil. And more coils means less current.
ANNOUNCER	Ladies and gentlemen, the fierce, Luchador Del Fuego Muerto! And his opponent, the deadly Fla-mingggg-oooo!
AIYSHA	The deadly Flamingo?
ALYA	So what about the legendarily rare wrestling move – Flamingo's left hand?
AIYSHA	Flamingo's left hand. What's that?
ADA	You just can't get enough of induction can you?
AIYSHA ALYA	Ada!
ADA	No need to panic – it's simple. Fleming's left hand rule is a handy way of working out the direction the movement will be, or in which direction current will be induced in a generator. Place your first finger in the direction of the magnetic field. Your second finger goes in the direction of the current in the wire, and the thumb shows the direction of the movement of the wire. Change the direction of your hand for different scenarios.
ALYA	Well, thanks Ada, but I was talking about Flamingo's left hand so enough with the science, we wanna watch the match.
ANNOUNCER	Increible! Flamingo has performed her legendary left hand move for the first time in ten years! And I doubt we'll ever see it again! Dios mio!