
Glossary

Ampere: A unit used to measure the amount of electric current.

Analyze: To study something by breaking it down into simpler parts.

Battery: A device that can produce an electric current as a result of chemical change in it.

Circuit diagram: A drawing that uses symbols to show how the parts of an electric circuit are connected.

Circuit tester: A device used to indicate a closed path across two points in a circuit. If the path between the two points tested is closed, the bulb of the circuit tester will light.

Circuit: A system that connects electrical devices so that they will operate.

Classify: To put things together because they share one or more properties.

Conclusion: A decision that is based on observations or on a study of data.

Conductor: A material through which an electric current can pass.

Constant: A condition that is not changed in a scientific experiment.

Controlled experiment: A scientific investigation in which one variable is changed and all the others are kept the same, or constant.

Data: Information, such as that gathered during an experiment.

Electric current: A flow of electric charge through something.

Evidence: Something that offers proof.

Experiment: A procedure that is carried out to investigate a scientific question.

Filament: A fine wire that becomes hot and produces light when an electric current passes through it.

Hypothesis: A prediction about how something works or how two variables are related.

Insulator: A material through which an electric current will not pass.

Nichrome wire: Wire made of nickel and chromium.

Opinion: An expression of how one thinks or feels about something. An opinion is based on personal views, not necessarily on facts.

Parallel circuit: An electric circuit in which the components are connected so that the current can follow more than one closed path.

Pattern: A repeating arrangement of shapes, colors, numbers, or other things.

Semiconductor diode: A device that allows electric current to flow through it in only one direction.

Semiconductor: A substance that can act as a conductor or an insulator.

Series circuit: An electric circuit in which the components are in a single path so that the current has only one closed path to follow.

Short circuit: A path of low resistance made between two points in an electric circuit where the resistance is normally much higher.

Switch: A device used to turn the electrical current in a circuit on or off.

Variable: An element in an experiment that can be changed.

Volt: A unit used to measure the electric potential of a battery.

Weight: A measurement of the force of gravity on an object.

Wire: A metal strand used to connect electrical devices in a circuit.