

Project glossary

appliance

A piece of electrical equipment used in the home.

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battery

A number of cells connected together.

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battery holder

A component that holds one or more cells.

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buzzer

A component that makes a sound when part of a complete circuit.

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cell

A store of chemical energy that can be converted to electrical energy and used as a power source.

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circuit

A collection of components connected by wires through which electricity can flow.

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circuit diagram

A simplified drawing that represents an electrical circuit. Symbols are used in a circuit diagram to show the different components in the circuit.

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coding

A language used to give instructions to a computer.

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component

A device added to an electrical circuit.

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conductor

A material through which an electric current can flow.

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crocodile clip

A metal clip that is used to join electric wires to components.

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data logger

An electronic device that uses sensors to monitor environmental variables, such as temperature, light and sound.



electric current

The flow of electric charge through a circuit.

electricity

A form of energy that provides power and makes appliances work.

environmental variable

A feature of the environment that changes, such as temperature or light.

insulator

A material that does not allow an electric current to pass through.

lamp

A component with a bulb and a holder that emits light when part of a complete circuit.

light-emitting diode (LED)

A device with two legs that emits light when part of a complete circuit. An LED only conducts electricity in one direction.

light meter

A device used to measure light intensity.

mains

Electricity generated in power stations and supplied to buildings through wires.

micro:bit

A small, programmable computer with an LED display, buttons and sensors.

motor

A component that creates movement when part of a complete circuit.

multimeter

A piece of equipment that can be used to measure voltage or electric current.

sensor

A device that monitors changes in the environment.

series circuit

A circuit that forms a loop with a single path for electric current to take.

source

Where electricity comes from, such as a cell or the mains.



switch

A component that can make or break a circuit when part of a complete circuit.

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symbol

A sign or shape that is used to represent something else.

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terminal

A point where electricity enters or leaves a cell.

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volt

The unit used to measure voltage.

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voltage

A measure of the force of an electric current, measured in volts.

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voltmeter

A piece of equipment used to measure voltage.

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wire

A conductive wire coated in insulating plastic that electric current flows through and connects other components.

Scientific terms glossary

compare

To look at two or more things closely and see what is the same or different.

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conclusion

An explanation of what has been found out using the data collected.

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data

Collected information or facts, including numbers, words, measurements or observations.

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diagram

A drawing with labels that show the parts of something.

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equipment

An object or objects that are needed for a particular purpose, such as a data logger or light meter app.



fair test

A test or investigation in which only one variable is changed each time measurements are made.

investigation

An activity that involves a person studying a subject or problem carefully to learn facts or answer a question. An investigation includes a planning, doing, recording and reviewing stage.

measurement

The exact amount of something, such as the length, height, volume or voltage in standard units.

method

A set of instructions or steps to follow in a specific order to complete a particular task.

observe

To watch or look at something carefully.

prediction

A statement made by a person where they say what they think will happen in the future, using their knowledge or experiences.

question

Something we ask using the words how, what, where, when, who and why.

record

To write down data, such as numbers, words, measurements or observations in different ways, such as lists, tables, charts or labelled diagrams.

research

To study a subject to discover new facts or information.

results

The data collected from an investigation or test.

table

A way of recording data in rows and columns.

variable

A factor, such as an object or condition, that changes during an investigation.

