

Electrical circuits

Electricity is a flow of **charges**. Electricity can flow through **conductors** but not through **insulators**. Metals are good conductors of electricity. Plastics are good insulators.

For current to flow in a circuit, you need:

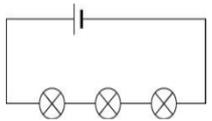
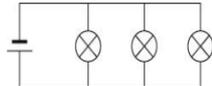
- a complete circuit with no gaps
- a cell or power supply.

Symbols

Component	Symbol	Component	Symbol	Component	Symbol
cell		bulb		ammeter	
switch		resistor		voltmeter	

Series and parallel circuits

Circuits can be **series** or **parallel** circuits.

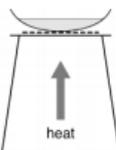
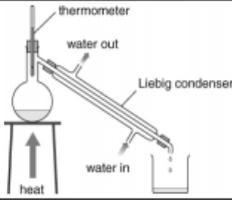
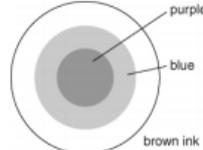
Series circuit	Parallel circuit
	
<p>If one bulb breaks, all the others go off.</p> <p>The current is the same everywhere.</p> <p>If you put more bulbs in they will be dimmer, because it is harder for the electricity to get through. The resistance of the circuit is higher with more bulbs.</p>	<p>If one bulb breaks, the bulbs in the other branches stay on.</p> <p>The current splits up when it comes to a branch. The current in all the branches adds up to the current in the main part of a circuit.</p> <p>If you add more bulbs, they stay bright. It is easier for the current to flow with more branches, because there are more ways for the charges to go.</p>

Mixtures

A **mixture** contains two or more substances jumbled together. There are different kinds of mixture:

- suspension: the solids settle out of the mixture over time.
- colloid: the solid pieces are smaller so they don't settle out, and the mixture looks cloudy or opaque.
- solution: the solids break up into such small pieces that they are not visible, and the mixture is transparent.

Mixtures and solutions can be separated using different methods:

Method	Used to separate	Apparatus used	Examples
filtering (filtration)	solids from a suspension (i.e. large pieces of solids that have not dissolved in a liquid)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sand from a mixture of sand and water
evaporation	solid substances from a solution or colloid		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • salt from a salt solution
distillation (evaporation followed by condensation)	liquid from a mixture		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pure water from a salt solution
chromatography	individual solutes from a mixture of solutes in a solvent		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • colours found in ink

Key vocabulary:

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Solid – one of the states of matter. Has a fixed volume and shape

Liquid – one of the states of matter. Has a fixed volume but not shape.

Gas- one of the states of matter. No fixed volume/shape, easy to squash.

Solvent – The liquid in which a substance dissolves to make a solution.

Solute – The substance that has dissolved in a liquid to make a solution.

Solution – When a substance has dissolved in a liquid.

Soluble – a substance that can dissolve in a liquid

Saturated – A solution that contains so much dissolved solute that no more solute can dissolve in it.

Distillation – Process of separating a liquid from a mixture by evaporating the liquid and condensing it.

Chromatography – A method that separates out dissolved substances in a mixture using a gas or a liquid solvent. The different substances are carried different distances by the solvent.

Evaporation - When a substance changes from liquid to gas state.

Condensation – When a substance changes from gas to liquid state.

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Current – the flow of electricity around a circuit.

Ammeter – Equipment that measures how much electricity is flowing around a circuit.

Parallel circuit – a circuit with two or more branches that split apart and join up again.

Series circuit – a circuit with only one loop of wire.

Resistance – How difficult it is for electricity to flow through something.

Voltage – How much energy is transferred by a current.

Resistor – A component that makes it difficult for electricity to flow.

Qualitative – something described with words

Quantitative – something described with numbers.

Component – Something in a circuit – like a bulb or motor.

Battery – two or more cells used together.

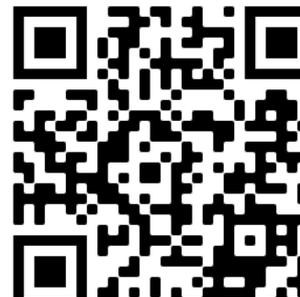
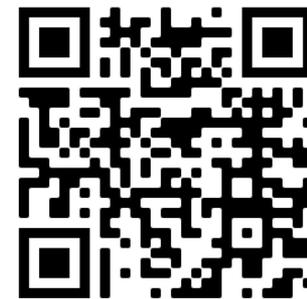
Amp – Unit for measuring current.

Filament – thin piece of wire inside a lightbulb that glows when light is on.

Insulator – material that does not conduct electricity well.

Conductor – material that conducts electricity well.

Videos



Quizzes

