

Project glossary

actuator

A part of a machine that moves something or makes it work.

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compress

To press or squeeze something into a smaller space.

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compressor

Part of a machine that compresses gas into a smaller space.

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deflate

To let out gas from an expandable object, such as a balloon.

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force

A push or pull that makes an object move or changes its direction of movement.

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gas

A substance that is neither a solid nor a liquid and is characterised by having no fixed volume and the ability to expand into any given space and to be compressed.

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inflate

To fill an expandable object, such as a balloon, with gas until it becomes swollen.

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jack

A piece of equipment that is used to raise a heavy object, such as a car, off the ground.

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lever

A simple machine that uses a beam resting on a fulcrum, which turns about a pivot to move a load.

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liquid

A substance that is neither a solid nor a gas and is characterised by having a fixed volume and the ability to flow to take the shape of its container.

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nozzle

A narrow piece attached to the end of a tube used to direct liquid or air in a particular way.

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particle

A single piece of matter that is too small to be seen.

piston

A short, solid piece of metal that moves up and down inside a cylinder.

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plunger

Part of a device, such as a syringe, that can be pushed down or pulled up.

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pneumatic system

A set of interconnected parts that use compressed or pressurised gas to move mechanical parts.

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pneumatics

The use of pressurised gas to create mechanical motion.

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pressure

The amount of force that a liquid or gas exerts on an area.

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reservoir

A place to store something until it is needed.

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solid

A substance that is neither a gas nor a liquid and is characterised by having a fixed shape. It cannot be compressed.

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syringe

A hollow cylinder with a nozzle and plunger, used for pulling in, or pushing out, liquids or gases.

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system

A set of parts that work together to create an outcome. Systems have an input, a process and an output.

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valve

A device that opens and closes to control the flow of liquids or gases.