

Project glossary

aerodynamic

Having a shape that reduces air resistance.

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air resistance

A frictional contact force that acts to slow an object's movement when it moves through air.

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contact force

A force that acts between two objects that touch.

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drag

A frictional contact force between a gas or liquid and another object.

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force

A push or a pull that makes something move.

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force meter

An instrument used to measure weight in newtons and mass in kilograms.

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friction

A force between two surfaces as they move across each other.

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fulcrum

The point at which a lever is supported or balanced.

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gear

A wheel with interlocking teeth that works with other gears to change the direction or size of a force.

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gravitational force/gravity

A non-contact pulling force between objects that have mass.

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lever

A simple machine consisting of a lever arm pivoted at a fulcrum that can give a mechanical advantage.

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lubricant

A liquid, such as oil or water, that is used to reduce friction between different surfaces.

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machine

A device that makes physical tasks easier by changing the size or direction of a force.



magnetism

The attraction and repulsion between two magnets or between a magnet and magnetic materials.

mass

The amount of matter that an object contains.

mechanical advantage

A measurement of how much a machine multiplies a force, so a smaller force can have a greater effect.

mechanism

Moving parts that work together to perform a function, usually in a machine.

newton

The unit used to measure weight.

non-contact force

A force that acts between two objects that do not touch.

particle

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

pull

A force that moves an object towards something.

pulley

A simple machine consisting of a rope and one or more grooved wheels that can be used to raise or lower a load.

push

A force that moves an object away from something.

streamline

Having a shape that can move quickly and effectively through a liquid or gas.

surface area

The area of an outer part of something.

water resistance

A frictional contact force that acts to slow an object's movement when it moves through water.

weight

A measure of the gravitational force acting on an object.



Scientific terms glossary

compare

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

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control

A part of a comparative investigation. It is an element that remains unchanged and is compared against the results to see the effect of a variable.

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equipment

An object or objects needed for a particular purpose, such as a hand lens or thermometer.

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kilograms

A unit of mass.

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line graph

A type of graph that uses a line to show changes over time.

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method

A set of instructions or steps to do a particular task.

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observe

To watch or look at something carefully.

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prediction

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

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record

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

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research

To study a subject to discover new facts or information.

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Venn diagram

A sorting diagram with two overlapping circles showing sets or groups of things.

