

Year 6 - Electricity

Key Vocabulary

circuit	A complete path that an electric current can flow around
switch	An electrical component that can make or break an electrical circuit.
circuit diagram	A visual representation of an electrical circuit using symbols to represent the electrical components.
circuit symbol	A visual picture that can be used to draw a circuit.
cell/battery	A device that stores energy as a chemical until it is needed. A cell is a single unit. A battery is a collection of cells
motor	A machine that produces motion or power for doing work.
buzzer	An electrical device that makes a buzzing noise and is used for signalling (for example, in a burglar alarm)
voltage	The force that makes electricity move through a wire

Did you know?

Electricity plays an important role in the way your heart functions. Muscle cells in the heart are contracted by electricity that runs through your body.

How do you make a bulb brighter?

Adding more cells to a complete circuit will make a bulb brighter; a motor spin faster or a buzzer make a louder sound.

If you use a battery with a higher voltage, the same thing happens.

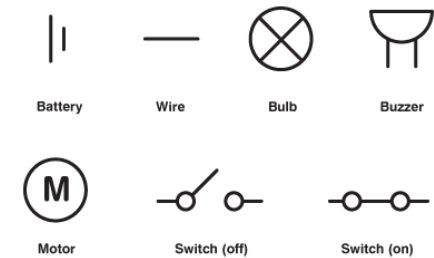


How do you make a bulb dimmer?

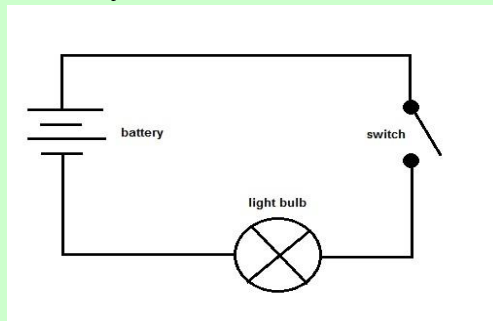
Adding more bulbs to a circuit will make each bulb less bright. Using more motors will make each motor spin more slowly.

Components and their symbols.

You can use recognised circuit symbols to draw simple circuit diagrams.



These symbols can be used to create electrical circuit diagrams.



Turning a switch off (open) breaks a circuit so the circuit is not complete, and electricity cannot flow. Any bulbs, motors or buzzers will then turn off.