Electric Potential

AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
work /wɜːk/	You do **work** when you push a box across the floor.
electric potential energy /ɪˈlektrɪk pəˈtenʃl ˈenədʒi/	Two charges close together have **electric potential energy**.
kinetic energy /kɪˈnetɪk ˈenədʒi/	A fast car has a lot of **kinetic energy**.
conservative force /kənˈsɜːvətɪv fɔːs/	Gravity is a **conservative force**: the work does not depend on the path.
system /ˈsɪstəm/	Choose the **system**: the two charges together.
electron volt	An **electron volt** is the energy an electron gains across one volt.
Electric potential /ɪˈlektrɪk pəˈtenʃl/	**Electric potential** is the energy per coulomb of charge at a point.
scalar /ˈskeɪlə/	Mass is a **scalar** because it has no direction.
point charges /pɔɪnt ˈtʃɑːdʒɪz/	Coulomb's law gives the force between two **point charges**.
superposition /ˌsuːpəpəˈzɪʃn/	When two waves meet, **superposition** adds them together.
continuous charge distribution /kənˈtɪnjuːəs tʃɑːdʒ ˌdɪstrɪˈbjuːʃn/	A charged rod is a **continuous charge distribution**.
integrate /ˈɪntɪgreɪt/	**Integrate** acceleration to find velocity.

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gradient /ˈgreɪdɪənt/	An electrostatic field points opposite to the potential **gradient**.
potential difference /pəˈtenʃl ˈdɪfrəns/	The **potential difference** across the lamp is 6 V.
equipotential /ˌiːkwɪpəˈtenʃl/	Every point on an **equipotential** has the same potential.
isoline /ˈaɪsəliːn/	An **isoline** joins points with the same value, like a contour on a map.
perpendicular /ˌpɜːpənˈdɪkjʊlə/	The wall is **perpendicular** to the floor.
field lines /fiːld laɪnz/	**Field lines** point away from positive charge and never cross.

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