# Optical instruments, path differences and refraction

GRE Subject Test · GRE Physics · Vocabulary in context

| Word | Example |
|---|---|
| **interferometer** /ˌɪntəˈfɪərɒmɪtə/ | The **interferometer** compares the phases of two returning beams. |
| **angular magnification** | A telescope's **angular magnification** makes far objects look bigger. |
| **resolving power** /rɪˈzɒlvɪŋ ˈpaʊə/ | Greater **resolving power** allows closer spectral lines to be distinguished. |
| **critical angle** /ˈkrɪtɪkl ˈæŋgl/ | Above the **critical angle**, light cannot leave the glass. |
| **total internal reflection** /ˈtəʊtl ɪnˈtɜːnl rɪˈflekʃn/ | **Total internal reflection** keeps light inside an optical fibre. |
| **refractive index** /rɪˈfræktɪv ˈɪndeks/ | Water has a **refractive index** of about 1.33. $1.33$ |



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