# Gas processes, entropy and reversible cycles

GRE Subject Test · GRE Physics · Vocabulary in context

| Word | Example |
|---|---|
| **heat pump** | A **heat pump** moves heat from the cold outside into a warm house. |
| **coefficient of performance** /ˌkəʊɪˈfɪʃənt ɒv pəˈfɔːməns/ | A higher **coefficient of performance** means more cooling per joule of work. |
| **state function** /steɪt ˈfʌŋkʃn/ | Internal energy is a **state function**: it depends only on the current state. |
| **isothermal** /ˌaɪsəˈθɜːml/ | In an **isothermal** process, the temperature stays fixed. |
| **adiabatic** /ˌædiəˈbætɪk/ | An **adiabatic** expansion cools the gas. |
| **cycle** /ˈsaɪkl/ | After one full **cycle**, the gas returns to its starting state. |