Wave model

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Physics · HL ·
Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
travelling wave	A **travelling wave** carries energy along a rope.
medium /ˈmiːdɪəm/	Sound needs a **medium**, such as air, to travel.
transverse wave /trænsˈvɜːs weɪv/	Light is a **transverse wave**.
longitudinal wave /ˌlɒŋgɪˈtjuːdɪnl weɪv/	Sound is a **longitudinal wave**.
compression /kəmˈpreʃn/	A **compression** is where air particles are close together.
rarefaction /ˌreərɪˈfækʃn/	A **rarefaction** is where air particles are far apart.
wavelength /ˈweɪvleŋθ/	The **wavelength** is the distance from one crest to the next.
wave speed /weɪv spiːd/	The **wave speed** is 340 m/s. 340 m/s
sound /saʊnd/	**Sound** cannot travel through a vacuum.
ultrasound /ˌʊltrəˈsaʊnd/	**Ultrasound** is sound too high for us to hear.
electromagnetic wave /ɪˌlektrəʊməgˈnetɪk weɪv/	Light is an **electromagnetic wave**.
electromagnetic spectrum /ɪˌlektrəʊməgˈnetɪk ˈspektrəm/	Radio waves and X-rays are both in the **electromagnetic spectrum**. X

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