Current and circuits

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

Word	Example
electromotive force /ɪˌlektrəʊˈməʊtɪv fɔːs/	The battery has an **electromotive force** of 9 V.
chemical cell /ˈkemɪkl sel/	A torch battery is a **chemical cell**.
solar cell	A **solar cell** turns sunlight into electricity.
electric current /ɪˈlektrɪk ˈkʌrənt/	An **electric current** flows when the switch is closed.
charge carrier /tʃɑːdʒ ˈkærɪə/	In a metal wire, each **charge carrier** is an electron.
conductor /kənˈdʌktə/	Copper is a good **conductor** of electricity.
insulator /ˈɪnsjuːleɪtə/	Plastic is an **insulator**.
potential difference /pəˈtenʃl ˈdɪfrəns/	The **potential difference** across the lamp is 6 V.
resistance /rɪˈzɪstəns/	A thin wire has a high **resistance**.
resistivity /ˌriːzɪˈstɪvəti/	Copper has a low **resistivity**, so it makes good wires.
Ohm's law /əʊmz lɔː/	**Ohm's law** says current is proportional to voltage.
ohmic /ˈəʊmɪk/	A metal wire at a steady temperature is **ohmic**.
filament lamp /ˈfɪləmənt læmp/	A **filament lamp** gets hot when it lights up.

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non-ohmic	A diode is **non-ohmic**.
thermistor /ˈθɜːmɪstə/	A **thermistor** measures the temperature.
light-dependent resistor /laɪt dɪˈpendənt rɪˈzɪstə/	A **light-dependent resistor** has a low resistance in bright light.
potentiometer /pəˌtentɪˈɒmɪtə/	Turn the **potentiometer** to change the output voltage.
internal resistance /ɪnˈtɜːnl rɪˈzɪstəns/	The battery's **internal resistance** makes it warm.
terminal potential difference /ˈtɜːmɪnl pəˈtenʃl ˈdɪfrəns/	The **terminal potential difference** falls when a large current flows.
potential divider /pəˈtenʃl dɪˈvaɪdə/	Two resistors in a **potential divider** share the voltage.