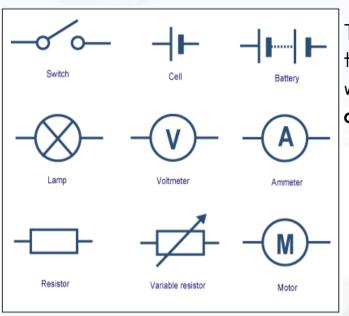
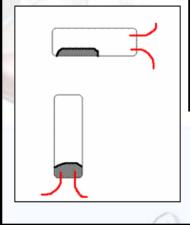
Changing Circuits Fact Sheet



These are some of the **symbols** used when drawing **circuit diagrams**.



Batteries come in all shapes and sizes.

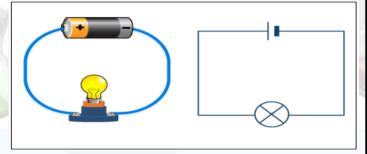


A **resistor** makes it difficult for electricity to **flow** in a circuit.



Mains electricity is delivered to homes and businesses via a network of sub-stations, cables and pylons called the National Grid.

Switches cause breaks in circuits, interrupting the flow of electricity. In this tilt switch a blob of mercury completes the circuit when the switch is turned by 90°



Here we can see how a **circuit** is depicted by the **symbols**



Changing Circuits Glossary

appliance - a household device that uses electricity - can be either mains or battery powered

current - a flow of electricity around a circuit

motor - an electrical component which rotates causing something to turn

battery - the power source in a circuit made up of two or more cells

electrical conductor - a material that allows electricity to flow through it e.g. metals

resistor - an electrical conductor that makes it difficult for electricity to flow in a circuit

break - an interruption in the flow of electricity

electrical insulator - a material which does not allow electricity to flow through it e.g. wood

switch - a device that causes a break in the flow of electricity

bulb - an electrical component which lights up in a circuit

fuse - an electrical component which will burn out in order to break a circuit in an emergency

terminal - the end of a cell or battery each cell has a positive (+) and a negative (-) terminal

buzzer - an electrical component that changes electrical energy into sound

leads - the wires used to join electrical components

terminals - the parts of the battery that need to be connected in the circuit

circuit - a circuit is formed when electricity flows through the electrical components

tilt switch - a switch that uses gravity to break the circuit

circuit diagram - a diagram that uses conventional symbols to represent the components of an electrical circuit

mains electricity - electricity supplied for use in homes and businesses

two way switch - a switch that is connected to two circuits that allows one or the other to function



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