

Physics Terminology (Speedy Study Guide)

Term	Definition
Absolute humidity:	The mass of water vapor in a sample of air in the volume of the sample.
Absolute zero:	The temperature of -273.15 or 0 K at which molecular motion ceases.
Absorbance:	The ratio of the total absorbed radiation to the total incident radiation.
Acceleration:	The rate of change of velocity with respect to time.
Acceleration due to gravity:	The acceleration imparted to bodies by the attractive force of the earth or any other heavenly body.
Achromatic:	capable of transmitting light without decomposing it into its constituent colors.
Acoustics:	The science of the production, transmission and effects of sound.
Aerobic shielding:	A shield barrier that prevents the transmission of atomic energy.
Alephatic:	Any change in which there is no gain or loss of heat.
Afocal lens:	A lens of zero convergent power, whose focal points are infinitely distant.
Affixes:	The fraction of the total light incident on a reflecting surface, especially a celestial body, which is reflected back in all directions.
Alpha particle:	The nucleus of a helium atom (two protons and two neutrons) emitted as radiation from a decaying heavy nucleus.
Alternating current:	The electric current that changes its direction periodically.
Amorphous:	Solids which have neither definite form nor structure.
Ampere:	S.I. Unit of electric current, one ampere is the flow of one coulomb of charge per second.
Amplitude:	The maximum absolute value attained by the disturbance of a wave or by any quantity that varies periodically.
Angle of contact:	The angle between tangents to the liquid surface and the solid surface inside the liquid, both the tangents drawn at the point of contact.
Angle of incidence:	The angle between the incident ray and the normal.
Angle of reflection:	The angle between the reflected ray and the normal.
Angle of refraction:	The angle between the refracted ray and the normal.
Angle of repose:	The angle of inclination of a plane with the horizontal such that a body placed on the plane is at the verge of sliding.
Angular:	A unit of length, $1 = 10^{-10}$ m.
Angular momentum:	Also called moment of momentum, it is the cross product of position vector and momentum.
Angular velocity:	The rate of change of angular displacement with time.
Anucleation:	A process in which a particle and antiparticle combine and release their rest energies in other particles.
Antineutrino:	The antiparticle of neutrino, it has zero mass and spin $1/2$.
Atomic mass unit:	It is equal to one twelfth the mass of $C-12$ isotope of carbon, $1 \text{ amu} = 1.66 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg}$.
Avogadro number:	The number of particles in an atomic mole.
Bauschinger number:	The number of molecules in a gram molecular weight of a substance, it is equal to 0.02×10^{25} .
Balmer lines:	Lines in the spectrum of hydrogen atom in visible range, produced by transition between $n=2$ and $n>2$, n is the principal quantum no.
Bary:	A unit of pressure, equal to 10^5 Pascals.
Baryon:	Subatomic particles composed of three quarks.

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