

Light Vocabulary Sheet

WORD	PRONUNCIATION	MEANING
absorb		This means to 'soak up' or 'take in'. If something absorbs light it soaks it up and does not let it back out.
boundary		A line showing where two media meet.
colour blind		People are colour blind if they cannot see some colours as well as other people can.
colour filter		A piece of coloured glass or plastic that lets only certain colour(s) of light pass through it.
dispersion		The spreading out of light into the different colours that make up the spectrum.
dye		A substance that adds colour to an object. Paints are a sort of dye.
image		What we see when we look at an object.
incident ray	in-sid-dent	Light hitting a mirror.
laterally inverted		The image of an object that appears switched from left to right.
luminous	loo-min-us	An object that gives off or emits light.
non-luminous		Something that does not emit light.
normal		This word has a special meaning when describing how light rays behave. It means a line is drawn at 90° to the boundary of two substances through which light is passing.
object		Something, which creates an image when reflected.
opaque	O-pake	An opaque object will not allow light to pass through it.
periscope		An optical device which reflects light so that we can round corners or over objects.
pigment		A coloured substance used to dye things.
plane mirror		A flat mirror
primary colour		Red, green and blue are the primary colours of light: these colours cannot be produced by mixing other coloured lights together.
ray diagram		A line diagram which shows what is happening to rays of light.
reflect		To bounce off something.
reflected		Light that has bounced off an object is said to have been reflected.
reflection		The process by which a ray of light bounces off an object and travels in a new direction.
refraction		When light rays appear to bend as they go from one substance into another.
secondary colour		Yellow, magenta and cyan are the secondary colours. They are produced by adding equal amounts of two primary colours. For example, red plus green light makes yellow

		light.
shadow		A region where light has been blocked off from a source by an opaque object.
spectrum		The range of colours that make up white light.
translucent	trans- loo -sent	A material that allows light to pass through it but is not transparent.
transmit		To send along or pass through.
transparent		Something that can be seen through is described as being transparent.
virtual image		An object we see that is not really there - like the image of you in the mirror.
white light		Light that contains all the colours of the spectrum.

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angle of incidence	<i>in-sid-dense</i>	The angle between the normal and the ray of light hitting a mirror.
angle of reflection		The angle between the normal and the ray of light leaving a mirror.
image		A picture which forms in a mirror, or on a screen, or is made by lenses.
incident ray	<i>in-sid-dent</i>	Light ray hitting a mirror.
normal		An imaginary line at right angles to a mirror, where a ray of light hits the mirror.
plane		Smooth and flat.
plane mirror		Smooth, flat mirror.
ray diagram		A diagram showing the passage of light rays.
reflect		Light bounces back from a surface instead of passing through it.
reflection		Light bouncing back from a surface instead of passing through it.
reflected ray		The ray of light bouncing off the mirror.
refraction		The change in direction when light goes from one transparent material to another.
scatter		When light rays bounce off something in all directions.

Colour it white/Make it white

Word	Pronunciation	Meaning
absorb		This means to 'soak up' or 'take in'. If something absorbs light it soaks it up and does not let it back out.
blue		One of the three primary colours of light.
cyan	<i>syé-an</i>	Secondary colour made by mixing green and blue light (greeny-blue).
dispersion		The separating of the colours in light, for example when white light passes through a prism.
filter		Something which only lets certain colours through and absorbs the rest.
green		One of the three primary colours of light.
magenta	<i>ma-jen-ta</i>	Secondary colour made by mixing red and blue light (pinkish red).
primary colours		The three main colours which can make white light (red, green and blue).
prism		A block of clear, colourless glass which is usually triangular.
red		One of the three primary colours of light.
secondary colours		The colours made when two primary colours mix.
spectrum		The seven colours of light.
transmit		To send along or pass through.
white light		Normal daylight, or the light from light bulbs, is white light.
yellow		Secondary colour made by mixing red and green light.