Part 1: Glossary

Key word	Definition
ammeter	A device for measuring electric current in a circuit.
amps	Units of measurement of electric current, symbol A.
atoms	A tiny particle containing protons and neutrons in a nucleus, and electrons.
attract	Be pulled together, for example, opposite poles of a magnet attract and positive and negative charges attract.
battery	Two or more electrical cells joined together.
cell	A chemical store of energy, which provides the push that moves charges around a circuit.
charged up	When materials are rubbed together, electrons move from one surface to the other.
current	Flow of electric charge, usually electrons, in amperes (A).
electrical conductor	A material that allows current to flow through it easily, and has a low resistance.
electrical insulator	A material that does not allow current to flow easily, and has a high resistance.
electric charge	A property of a material, the electric charge can be positive, negative, or neutral.
electric field	A region where a charged material or particle experiences a force.
electron	Tiny particles that are part of atoms and carry a negative charge.
electrostatic force	Non-contact force between two charged objects.
lightning	Occurs when electrons jump from one charged area to another and produce a big current.
negatively charged	An object that has gained electrons as a result of the charging process.
neutral	Describes an object or particle that has no charge, or in which positive and negative charges cancel out, giving no overall charge.

Part 1: Glossary

ohms	The units of resistance, symbol Ω.
parallel	If some components are in separate loops in an electric circuit.
positively charged	An object that has lost electrons as a result of the charging process.
potential difference	The amount of energy shifted from the battery to the moving charge, or from the charge to circuit components, in volts (V).
rating	The value of potential difference at which a cell or bulb operates.
repel	Be pushed away from each other, for example, like magnetic poles repel or like electric charges repel.
resistance	A property of a component, making it difficult for charge to pass through, in ohms (Ω).
series	If components in a circuit are in the same loop in an electric circuit.
voltage	The amount of energy shifted from the battery to the moving charge, or from the charge to circuit components, in volts (V).
voltmeter	A device for measuring potential difference (voltage).
volts	Unit of measurement of potential difference (voltage), symbol V.