

Key term	Definition
compression	Force squashing or pushing together, which changed the shape of an object.
electromagnetic spectrum	The range of wavelengths of radiation produced by the Sun and other sources.
gamma rays	Waves with the highest frequency in the electromagnetic spectrum.
infrared (IR) (radiation)	Radiation given off by the Sun and other objects that brings about energy transfer.
ionisation	The removal of an electron from an atom.
longitudinal wave	A wave in which the direction of vibration is the same as that of the wave.
loudspeaker	A device that uses an electromagnet to make sound from a varying potential difference. Turns an electrical signal into a pressure wave of sound.
microphone	Turns the pressure wave of sound hitting it into an electrical signal (potential difference).
microwaves	Waves of the electromagnetic spectrum used for heating and for communicating.
pressure wave	An example is sound, which has repeating patterns of high-pressure and low-pressure regions.
radio waves	Waves with the lowest frequency in the electromagnetic spectrum, used for communicating.
rarefaction	The part of the longitudinal wave where the air particles are spread out.
superpose	When waves join together so that they add up or cancel out.
transmission	Where waves travel through a medium rather than being absorbed or reflected.
transverse wave	A wave in which the direction of vibration is perpendicular to that of the wave.
ultrasound	Sound waves with frequencies higher than the human auditory range.
ultraviolet (UV)	Waves with frequencies higher than those of light, which human eyes cannot detect.
visible light	The band of frequencies of light that we can detect with our eyes.
wave	Vibrations that transport energy from place to place without transporting matter.
X-rays	Waves of the electromagnetic spectrum used for producing images of bones and tissue.