



Key Vocabulary

symbol	A pictorial representation of an electrical component.
component	A part of an electrical circuit, e.g. motor, buzzer.
voltage	A force that makes electricity flow through a circuit.
current	The flow of electricity in a circuit.
variation	A change in the condition of a circuit.
function	How a component works.

Key Facts

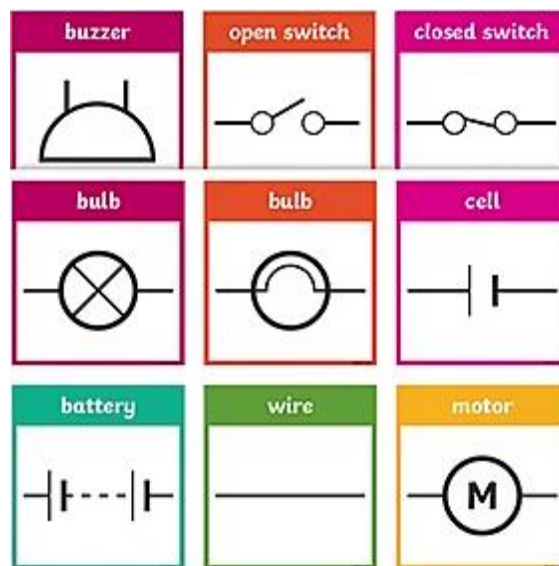
- Symbols are used to represent simple circuits because it shows how the element works, not what it looks like. They also make circuits easier to read and make.
- A stronger current will make a bulb brighter and a buzzer louder. A weaker current will make a buzzer quieter or a motor slower.
- The more components in a circuit, the less well they will function as they will be taking up more of the current.
- Voltage affects circuit function as it provides a bigger 'push' to the current in the circuit.

Key Questions

- Which symbols are used to represent each component in a simple circuit?
- Why are symbols used to represent a simple circuit?
- What will make a bulb brighter or a buzzer louder?
- What will make a motor slower or a buzzer quieter?
- Why does the number of components in a circuit affect how they function?
- Why does the voltage affect how components in a circuit function?

Links to other Learning

- EYFS - ELG: The Natural World
Explore the natural world around them
- Year 4 - Electricity
Conduct a simple series electrical circuit
- Key Stage 3 - Physics
Series and parallel circuits



Symbols used to draw circuits

Famous Scientist

Alessandro Volta
1745-1827

Volta was an Italian pioneer of electricity and power. He is most credited as the inventor of the electric battery, and he proved electricity could be generated chemically which sparked scientific excitement as it was previously thought electricity could only be generated by living beings.

