
Glossary of Terms



PULLEY TERMS

Pulley: A pulley is a wheel with a groove along its outer edge. A belt runs in the groove. A pulley can be used to move another pulley. Pulleys of different size when connected run at different speeds. A pulley can be used to change the direction and/or speed of motion.

Stacked Pulley: Stacked Pulleys are two or more pulleys on the same shaft. This allows you to move more pulleys from one rotating point.

CIRCUIT TERMS

Electrical circuit: A circuit is a path that electricity can follow. The path must be a loop and includes a power source such as a battery.

Circuit board: Most modern electronics, toys included, use a printed circuit board which are often green with thin strips of copper acting as wire. An integrated circuit is a miniature circuit.

CAM TERMS

Cam: A cam rotates on a shaft and is often an off-center circle or oval or a weird shape. Cams can translate rotation motion into linear motion.

Cam follower: The follower traces the surface of the cam as it rotates and moves up and down accordingly.

LINKAGE TERMS

Linkage: A linkage is made up of separate pieces connected by moveable joints. Moving one piece causes others to move also. Linkages can change the type of motion.

GEAR TERMS

Gears: A gear is a wheel with teeth. If two gears are connected so they interlock or mesh, you can make both gears move by only turning one. A gear is used to change speed (by combining gears with different number of teeth) in rotational movement and also reverse the rotational movement. There are many types of gears such worm gears, used to reduce speed

Gear trains: A gear train is a series of connected gears that can change the speed at which something rotates.

Driving gears: The gear that is receiving power to make the other gears turn.

MOTION TERMS

Though the following terms are not used in the exhibit, they are useful for discussing the types of motion seen in the exhibit.



Linear Motion: Basic motion of moving in one direction only.

Reciprocating Motion: Motion that goes back and forth.

Rotary Motion: Motion in a circle.

Oscillation: Motion back and forth about a pivot point.

Intermittent Motion: Motion that stops and starts in a regular pattern.

Irregular Motion: Motion that does not seem to follow a set pattern.