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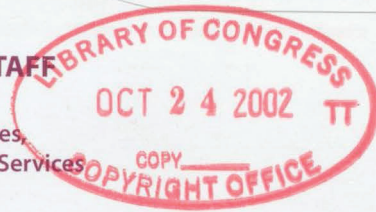


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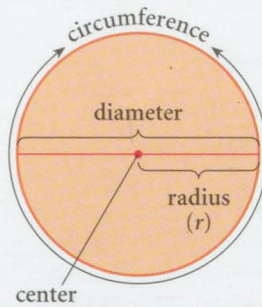
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circle



■ circle

The area of a circle is πr^2 . The length of the circumference is $2\pi r$.

circle (sûr'kəl) A closed curve whose points are all on the same plane and at the same distance from a fixed point (the center).

circuit (sûr'kît) **1.** A closed path through which an electric current flows or may flow. ♦ Circuits in which a power source is connected to two or more components (such as light bulbs), one after the other, are called **series circuits**. If the circuit is broken, none of the components receives a current. Circuits in which a power source is directly connected to two or more components are called **parallel circuits**. If a break occurs in the circuit, only the component along whose path the break occurs stops receiving a current. **2.** A system of electrically connected parts or devices: *a microchip containing all the circuits of a computer.*

circuit board In a computer, an insulated board on which interconnected circuits and components such as microchips are mounted or etched.

circuit breaker A switch that automatically interrupts the flow of an electric current if the current becomes too strong.

circulation (sûr'kyā-lā'shən) The flow of blood as it is pumped by the heart to all the tissues of the body and then back to the heart. Blood that is rich in oxygen is carried away from the heart by the arteries, and blood that is low in oxygen is returned to the heart by the veins. Nutrients and waste products are exchanged between the blood and the tissues of the body through the circulation.

circulatory system (sûr'kyā-lā-tôr'ē) The system that circulates blood through the body, consisting of the heart and blood vessels. In all vertebrates and certain invertebrates, the circulatory system is completely contained within a network of vessels. In vertebrates, the lymphatic system is also considered part of the circulatory system.

circum- A prefix meaning "around," as in *circumscribe*, to draw a figure around another figure.

circumference (sər-kūm'fər-əns) **1a.** The boundary line of a circle. **b.** The boundary line of a figure, area, or object. **2.** The length of such a boundary.

circumscribe (sûr'kəm-skrīb') *Geometry.* To draw a figure around another figure so as to touch as many points as possible. A circle that is circumscribed around a triangle touches it at each of the triangle's three vertices.

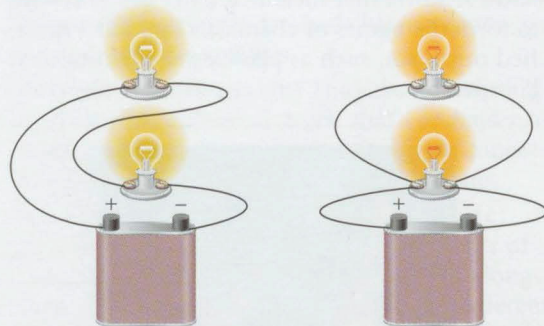
cirrhosis (sī-rō'sīs) A liver disease in which normal liver cells are gradually replaced by scar tissue, causing the organ to shrink, harden, and lose its function. Cirrhosis is most commonly caused by chronic alcohol abuse.

cirro-cu-mu-lus (sîr'ō-kyōm'yā-ləs) A grainy or rippled cloud formation, usually occurring in sheets or bands. Cirrocumulus clouds form at upper levels of the atmosphere.

cirro-strat-us (sîr'ō-străt'əs) A thin, hazy cloud formation made up of ice crystals, often covering the sky in sheets and producing a halo effect around the sun. Cirrostratus clouds form at upper levels of the atmosphere.

cirrus (sîr'əs) A cloud formation made up of feathery white patches, bands, or streamers of ice crystals. Cirrus clouds form at upper levels of the atmosphere.

citrate (sīt'rāt') A salt or ester of citric acid, containing the group $C_6H_5O_7$.



■ circuit

Bulbs in a series circuit (left) give off dim light since they each consume a portion of the power coming through a single circuit connected to the battery. In a parallel circuit (right) bulbs shine brightly since each is directly connected in its own circuit to the power source.