

Spelling list: GCSE Physics: Waves and Refraction 1

Key words for GCSE Physics.

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| transverse | A transverse wave is where the vibrations are at right angles to the direction of travel. |
| wave | A transverse wave is where the vibrations are at right angles to the direction of travel. |
| longitudinal | A longitudinal wave is where the vibrations are parallel to the direction of travel. |
| ripple | A ripple is a small wave on a surface. |
| compression | A compression is when the particles in a longitudinal wave are closer together than average. |
| rarefaction | A rarefaction is when the particles in a longitudinal wave are further apart than average. |
| amplitude | The maximum displacement of a point on a wave is called the amplitude . |
| displacement | Displacement is the distance and direction something moves. |
| wavelength | A wavelength is the distance from a point on one wave to the same point on the next wave. |
| frequency | The frequency is how many waves pass through a set point in a second. |
| Hertz | The unit of frequency is the Hertz . |
| wave | Wave speed is calculated by multiplying frequency and wavelength. |
| speed | Wave speed is calculated by multiplying frequency and wavelength. |
| period | The wave period is calculated by dividing one by the frequency. |