

The Vocabulary of Electricity WOES

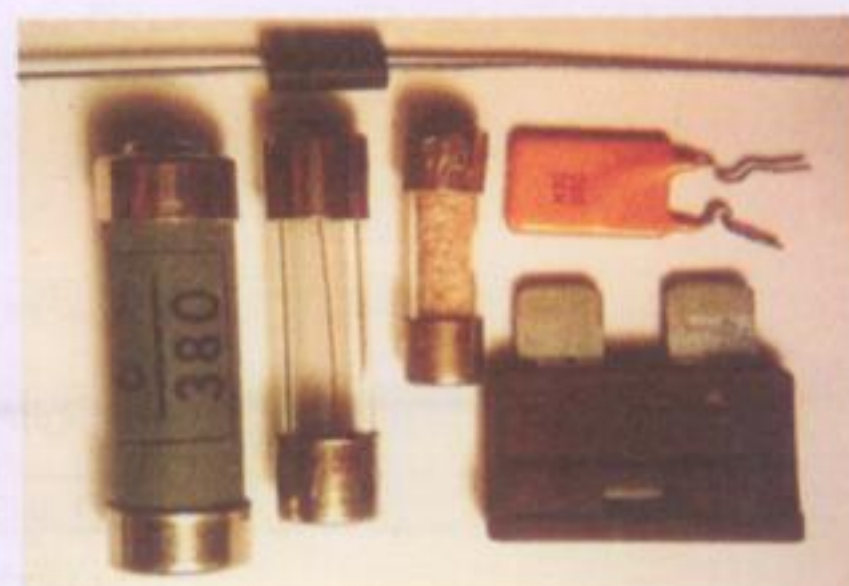


► In the Lead-in section, you read about instances of transmission lines failure. This section deals with problems related to lower-voltage distribution systems that carry electricity to individual customers. A) In the gaps below, write what you see in the pictures. Use: relay, circuit breaker, fuse, lightning.

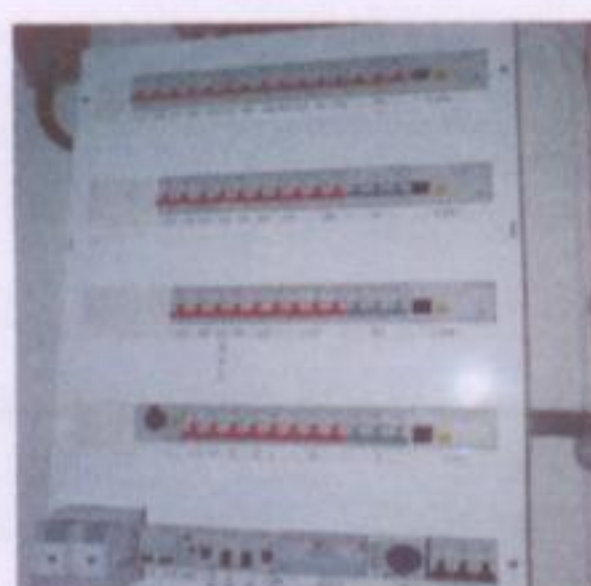
B) In the definitions that follow, choose the correct option:

- ✓ (Power) surge = overload; oversupply of / in voltage; excess current
- ✓ Short circuit = a faulty connection which causes electricity to travel with / along the wrong route
- ✓ Sag or dip = a very short drop in / of voltage which causes temporary loss of power
- ✓ Brownout = a short drop in / of voltage which may last a little longer than / from a sag
- ✓ Blow (out) = burn out
- ✓ Power failure = power cut, interruption from / of electricity supply
- ✓ Outage = power cut (mainly Am. En.)
- ✓ Relay = a device actuated with / by variations in current or voltage that controls other devices in the same or a different circuit

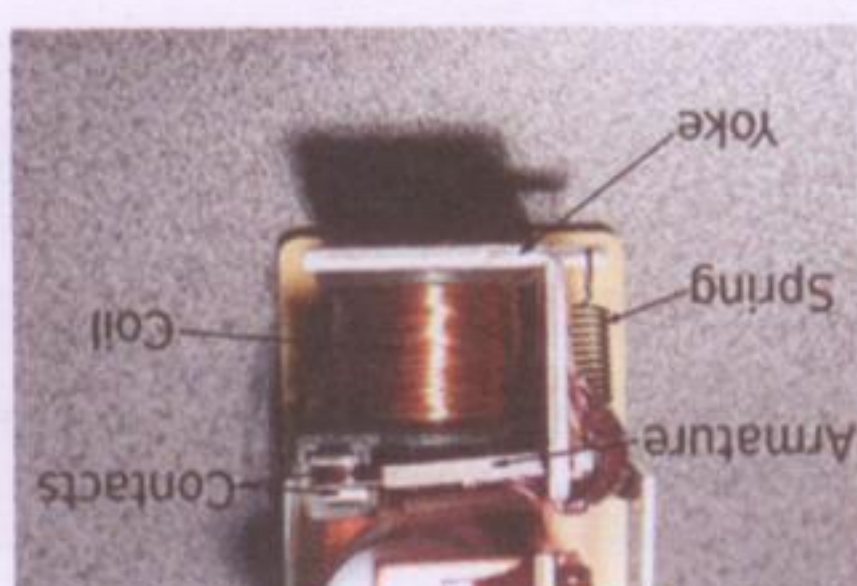
1)



2)



3)



4)



► Activity 1: Fill in the gaps in the following sentences with words from the two lists provided:

fuses / blackout / outages / cut / lightning strikes / power / failure

1. _____ are responsible for a number of deaths and fires every year.
2. Due to power _____, the alarm didn't go off so the burglars managed to slip unnoticed into the building.
3. In certain areas electric utilities often _____ off electricity when daily power use reaches a certain level.
4. During the _____, the whole area was plunged into darkness.
5. If the _____ goes out, your computer may crash.
6. Power _____ may be due to damage to power lines.
7. _____ have been replaced by circuit breakers in modern homes.

brownout / sags or dips / blow / surge / short circuit / relay / circuit breakers

8. A _____ can be caused by mice chewing through wires or by worn-out electrical cable sheathing.
9. Frequent _____ in electrical supply could affect electronic equipment.
10. The function of _____ is to prevent surges in electrical current.
11. When fuses _____, they need to be replaced.
12. A _____ may be caused by lightning or by plugging too many items into the same outlet.
13. When the light started dimming (getting weaker) we realized that that we were having another _____.
14. _____ failure is often due to a spike (abrupt, short increase) in voltage.

► Activity 2: In the sentences above, A) Identify three instances of undervoltage (voltage which is lower than normal) and two of overvoltage (voltage which is higher than normal). B) Identify instances of cause and effect. You can write them in the fourth row (i.e., other) of the table on p. 107.