

Glossary

active area—the area over which a sensor can detect stimuli

amplifier—an electronic device for amplifying voltage, current, or power

application—a specific use for something

detector—a device for determining the presence of vibrations, electromagnetic fields, or radioactivity

device—a piece of equipment or a mechanism that serves a special purpose or performs a special function

dipole—a molecule with one end having a slight negative charge and the other end having a slight positive charge; a polar molecule

electromagnetic radiation—a form of energy that occurs in waves such as radio waves, visible and ultraviolet light, infrared radiation, gamma rays, and X rays

electronegativity—the ability of an atom to attract the shared electrons in a chemical bond

experimental error—circumstances that produce variability of measurement or miscalculation in an experiment

film—an exceedingly thin, flexible sheet

infrared radiation—electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength between 700 nanometers and 1 millimeter, recognized as heat

input stimulus—the stimulus first perceived by a sensor and later processed

isomer—one of two or more compounds that have the same composition but different molecular structures

monomer—the repeating unit of a polymer

motion detector—a sensor that perceives movement

output device—the mechanism that passes a signal to a display or to something that can act on the signal

piezoelectric film—a thin polymer material with piezoelectric properties

piezoelectricity—development of electricity or electric polarity due to pressure, especially in a crystalline substance such as quartz or in semicrystalline polymers such as PVDF