

**energy** (èn´er-jê) noun

plural energies

1. The capacity for work or vigorous activity; vigor; power. See Synonyms at strength.
2. a. Exertion of vigor or power: a project requiring a great deal of time and energy. b. Vitality and intensity of expression: a speech delivered with energy and emotion.
3. a. Usable heat or power: Each year Americans consume a high percentage of the world's energy. b. A source of usable power, such as petroleum or coal.
4. Physics. The capacity of a physical system to do work.

[French énergie, from Late Latin *energia*, from Greek *energeia*, from *energōs*, active : en-, in, at. See en-2 + *ergon*, work.]

**work** (wûrk) noun

Abbr. wk.

1. Physical or mental effort or activity directed toward the production or accomplishment of something.
2. a. A job; employment: looking for work. b. A trade, profession, or other means of livelihood.
3. a. Something that one is doing, making, or performing, especially as an occupation or undertaking; a duty or task: begin the day's work. b. An amount of such activity either done or required: a week's work.
4. a. The part of a day devoted to an occupation or undertaking: met her after work. b. One's place of employment: Should I call you at home or at work?
5. a. Something that has been produced or accomplished through the effort, activity, or agency of a person or thing: This story is the work of an active imagination. Erosion is the work of wind, water, and time. b. Full action or effect of an agency: The sleeping pills did their work. c. An act; a deed: "I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity" (Ecclesiastes 1:14).
6. a. An artistic creation, such as a painting, sculpture, or literary or musical composition; a work of art. b. works. The output of a writer, an artist, or a musician considered or collected as a whole: the works of Shakespeare.
7. a. works. Engineering structures, such as bridges or dams. b. A fortified structure, such as a trench or fortress.
8. a. Needlework, weaving, lacemaking, or a similar textile art. b. A piece of such textile art.
9. A material or piece of material being processed in a machine during manufacture: work to be turned in the lathe.
10. works (used with a sing. or pl. verb). A factory, plant, or similar building or complex of buildings where a specific type of business or industry is carried on. Often used in combination: a steelworks.
11. works. Internal mechanism: the works of a watch.
12. The manner, style, or quality of working or treatment; workmanship.

13. Abbr. w Physics.. The transfer of energy from one physical system to another, especially the transfer of energy to a body by the application of a force that moves the body in the direction of the force. It is calculated as the product of the force and the distance through which the body moves and is expressed in joules, ergs, and foot-pounds.
14. works. Theology. Moral or righteous acts or deeds: salvation by faith rather than works.
15. works a. Informal. The full range of possibilities; everything. Used with the: ordered a pizza with the works. b. Slang. A thorough beating or other severe treatment. Used with the: took him outside and gave him the works.

**power** (pou'ər) noun

Abbr. pwr.

1. The ability or capacity to perform or act effectively.
2. Often powers. A specific capacity, faculty, or aptitude: her powers of concentration.
3. Strength or force exerted or capable of being exerted; might. See Synonyms at strength.
4. The ability or official capacity to exercise control; authority.
5. A person, group, or nation having great influence or control over others: the western powers.
6. The might of a nation, political organization, or similar group.
7. Forcefulness; effectiveness: a novel of unusual power.
8. Chiefly Upper Southern U.S.. A large number or amount. See Regional Note at powerful.
9. a. The energy or motive force by which a physical system or machine is operated: turbines turned by steam power; a sailing ship driven by wind power. b. The capacity of a system or machine to operate: a vehicle that runs under its own power. c. Electrical or mechanical energy, especially as used to assist or replace human energy. d. Electricity supplied to a home, building, or community: a storm that cut off power to the whole region.
10. Physics. The rate at which work is done, expressed as the amount of work per unit time and commonly measured in units such as the watt and horsepower.
11. Electricity. a. The product of applied potential difference and current in a direct-current circuit. b. The product of the effective values of the voltage and current with the cosine of the phase angle between current and voltage in an alternating-current circuit.
12. Mathematics. a. See exponent. b. The number of elements in a finite set.
13. Statistics. The probability of rejecting the null hypothesis where it is false.
14. A measure of the magnification of an optical instrument, such as a microscope or telescope.
15. powers. Theology. The sixth of the nine orders of angels.
16. Archaic. An armed force.