

The following are the terms you should be familiar with in order to properly complete this unit. You are expected to be able to define each as well as apply these terms in any situation during this and subsequent units of study.

light - Common term for electromagnetic radiation.

photon - A tiny particle-like bundle of radiation. The particle component of light.

electromagnetic radiation - Transverse waves that do not require a medium. Visible light is an example.

electromagnetic spectrum – A “picture” of all the electromagnetic waves as they gradually change in frequency.

transparent - A type of material that allows lights to pass through it, and you can clearly see through it.

translucent - A type of material that allows some light to pass through it, but you cannot see clearly through it.

opaque - A type of material that absorbs or reflects all light, and does not allow you to see through it.

polarized - Light with all waves vibrating in the same plane.

LASER - Coherent light of only one frequency. **L**ight **A**mplification through the **S**timulation of **E**mitted **R**adiation. This light is extremely intense due to its coherency.

pigment - A material that absorbs specific colors and reflects others. It is defined by the colors it reflects.