

On or Off?

Electricity flows as long as the circuit is complete. A switch acts like a gate in the circuit. When the switch is turned on, it completes the circuit. The electricity moves across the switch and keeps traveling. When you turn the switch off, it breaks the circuit.

You can make a simple switch.

Materials: paper clip, battery, bulb holder with bulb, three pieces of wire with bared ends, piece of cork, 2 thumbtacks, metal object

1. Twist the ends of two wires around the thumbtacks. Push the tacks into the cork.
2. Attach one wire to the battery and the other to the bulb holder.
3. Attach the third wire to connect the battery to the bulb holder.
4. Place a metal object on the thumbtacks. If the bulb lights up, it is ready.
5. Now place one end of the paper clip around one thumbtack. Bend the paper clip so it does not touch the other thumbtack.
6. The paper clip is your switch. Press it down. What happens?



Why? _____

7. Release the paper clip.

What happens? _____

Why? _____

