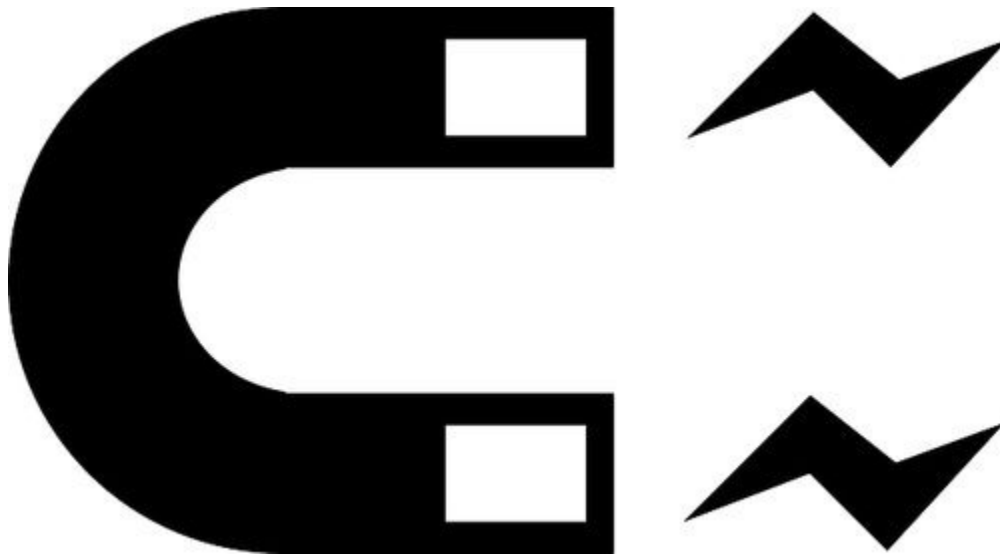


# Magnetism - Magnets: Types and Uses

by ReadWorks



Magnets come in a wide variety with an equally wide variety of uses. The most common are bars or disks. Because they stick to certain metals, these magnets are used to fasten and latch things, like a cabinet door. Huge horseshoe magnets have a U shape. They are used to move iron and steel scrap. Tiny magnets on audiotape and videotape store sound and images.

Magnets are everywhere. They help to make life more convenient. They also help us to get around more quickly. For example, many electrical motors require electromagnets to run. The magnetic force that runs the motors is created when an electrical current flows through a coil of wire. Motors with electromagnets help run many household appliances. The same electromagnetic force is also used in the motors of cars, trains, and airplanes.

Magnets are so useful they're even being used to improve the health of some people. Huge magnets in a special machine can now give doctors detailed pictures within the body. The pictures help doctors find and treat problems inside the body, without having to make an incision.

People's reliance on magnets only continues to grow. In Japan, magnets are being used in some amazing new ways. For example, Japan now has a special train that runs on magnets. It literally levitates over the tracks. The magnetic force helps to provide a fast smooth ride. Hopefully, America will have a train like this very soon.



3. a trend or tendency.

*The current of opinion is in his favor.*

## Spanish cognate

*corriente*: The Spanish word *corriente* means current.

## These are some examples of how the word or forms of the word are used:

1. Things like the wind, the sun, and ocean **currents** are called renewable because they won't go away anytime soon.
2. The floods were the worst in the southern Asian nation's history. The powerful **currents** flowed across about one-fifth of the country and killed more than 1,600 people.
3. Sometimes, they waited for days. Then a messenger would come and say, "There's been a wreck." That happened a lot, especially at the start of winter when the **currents** got wild and the sailors were tired.
4. So right now the waves are sweeping in from the north, which means they are hitting the Mahimahi on the starboard side. The waves are medium sized, just under ten feet. Meanwhile the wind comes from the west at ten knots, hitting the ship's starboard bow. Since the Mahimahi is so big, you might think such weak **current** and wind make no difference.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Which sentence best describes the main idea of this passage?
  - A. Magnets come in a wide variety with many uses.
  - B. Magnets are everywhere.
  - C. Motors with electromagnets help run many household appliances.
  - D. Tiny magnets on audiotape and videotape store sound and images.
  
2. Which of the following is an opinion?
  - A. Huge horseshoe magnets have a U shape.
  - B. Hopefully, America will have a train like this very soon.
  - C. Many electrical motors require electromagnets to run.
  - D. Tiny magnets on audiotape and videotape store sound and images.
  
3. People \_\_\_\_\_ use magnets in the home.
  - A. rarely
  - B. always
  - C. often
  - D. like to
  
4. According to the passage, you can tell that **convenient** means
  - A. easy
  - B. uncomfortable
  - C. difficult
  - D. solemn
  
5. The passage describes all of the following uses of magnetsexcept
  - A. a latch for a cabinet door.
  - B. a motor for a household appliance.
  - C. a device to predict powerful storms.
  - D. a machine that shows pictures within the body.

6. How might you describe Japan's use of magnets?

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7. According to the passage, how have magnets helped doctors?

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8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Many electrical motors require electromagnets to run \_\_\_\_\_ the magnetic force that runs the motors is created when an electrical current flows through a coil of wire.

- A. despite
- B. against
- C. across
- D. since

9. Answer the following question based on the sentence below.

**Magnets** fasten and latch cabinet doors because they stick to certain metals.

In the sentence, the word magnets best answers which question?

- A. Who?
- B. What?
- C. Where?
- D. Why?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is a meaning of the word **current**?

- A. belonging to the modern era
- B. running or moving rapidly
- C. with little or no sound

2. What is another meaning of the word **current**?

- A. most important
- B. ordinary
- C. as of now

**Please use each answer choice only once. Choose the one word that best completes the sentence.**

3. However, until 2002, these three countries used different \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. currents
- B. undercurrent
- C. currencies
- D. currency
- E. crosscurrent
- F. current
- G. currently

4. It was this that had created the \_\_\_\_\_ of fear.

- A. currents
- B. undercurrent
- C. currencies
- D. currency
- E. crosscurrent
- F. current
- G. currently

5. \_\_\_\_\_, my family is trying to decide whether or not to get a car.

- A. currents
- B. undercurrent
- C. currencies
- D. currency
- E. crosscurrent
- F. current
- G. currently

6. A \_\_\_\_\_ is the flow of water through the ocean.

- A. currents
- B. undercurrent
- C. currencies
- D. currency
- E. crosscurrent
- F. current
- G. currently

7. That's because most countries have their own system of \_\_\_\_\_, or money.

- A. currents
- B. undercurrent
- C. currencies
- D. currency
- E. crosscurrent
- F. current
- G. currently



8. The \_\_\_\_\_ battled her every stroke.

- A. currents
- B. undercurrent
- C. currencies
- D. currency
- E. crosscurrent
- F. current
- G. currently

9. Waves and marine \_\_\_\_\_ carry litter to the beach.

- A. currents
- B. undercurrent
- C. currencies
- D. currency
- E. crosscurrent
- F. current
- G. currently

10. Please write your own sentence using the word **current**.

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11. What would you like to remember about the meaning of the word **current** so that you can use it when you write or speak?

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