

plane mirror

a flat mirror

propagate

to travel through a medium or space

pulse

a single disturbance

rarefaction

the region in a longitudinal wave where the particles are spread out further than their equilibrium positions

ray

a line drawn at right angles to a wave front

reflection

the bouncing back of a wave or particle from a boundary

refraction

the bending of a wave as it passes from one medium into another, resulting from a change in speed of the wave in the two media

refractive index

the ratio of the sine of the angle of incidence to the sine of the angle of refraction, for a wave travelling from one medium into another

Snell's law

a law relating the angle of incidence to the angle of refraction; $n = \sin i / \sin r$

superposition

the combination of two or more waves by adding their displacements to produce a resultant wave

total internal reflection

the reflection of all the light falling on a boundary when the angle of incidence exceeds the critical angle

transverse wave

a wave in which the particles vibrate at right angles to the direction of energy transfer

trough

a region of downwards displacement in a transverse wave

ultraviolet

electromagnetic waves with wavelengths shorter than violet light

velocity

the speed of a wave in the direction of energy transfer

volume

the degree of
loudness of a sound

wave

a carrier of energy;
does not transfer
matter

wavefront

a line joining points
in phase on a wave

wavelength

the distance between
two corresponding
successive points on a
wave

x-ray

high frequency
electromagnetic waves
of high penetration