

Mechanisms: Moving Parts and Structures

Learning objective: To understand the key vocabulary and functions of mechanical systems including levers, linkages, and pivots.

Use these flashcards to revise key terms for your Design Technology project. Max the monkey suggests practising these with a partner to make sure you know how your moving parts work!

What is a mechanism?

A system of parts working together to create movement or perform a task.

What is a lever?

A rigid bar that rests on a pivot and is used to move a load.

What is a pivot?

The central point on which a mechanism turns or balances.

What is a fulcrum?

The specific name for the pivot point that a lever rests on.

What is a linkage?

A series of levers connected together to transfer motion from one part to another.

What is an input?

The force or movement that you apply to a mechanism to make it start working.

What is an output?

The resulting movement or action produced by the mechanism.

What is a crank?

A handle attached at a right angle to a shaft, used to turn a mechanism in a circular motion.

What is friction?

The resistance that one surface or object encounters when moving over another.

Why do we use a structure in a mechanism?

To provide a stable base or frame so the moving parts have something to be attached to.

What is a simple machine?

A basic mechanical device, like a lever or a pulley, that changes the direction or amount of force.

If a mechanism is 'stiff', what is likely causing it?

Too much friction between the moving parts.