

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# What Is Electricity?

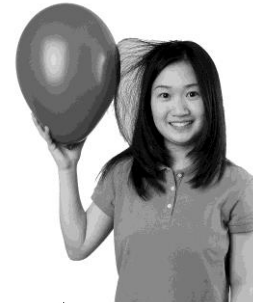
## Science Words

Say each word quietly to yourself. Then read the meaning.

Read the tip to help you remember.

**static electricity** [STAT•ik ee•lek•TRIS•uh•tee] a build up of electrical charges

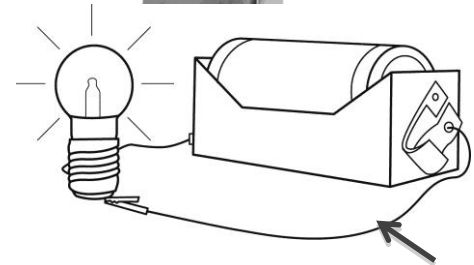
*Static* and *still* begin with the same sounds. If something is static it is still, not moving. *Static electricity* is electrical charges that build up in an object. *Static electricity* does not flow.



Static electricity causes the attraction between the balloon and the girl's hair.

**electric current** [uh•LEK•trik KER•uhnt] the flow of electric charges

A current in a river or the ocean is water that flows in a particular direction. An *electric current* is electric charges that flow along a path, such as a wire.



Electricity flows along this path.

## Science Concepts

Read the Ideas more than once. Do your best to remember them.

1. Atoms—made up of protons, neutrons, and electrons—are the building blocks of all matter.
2. Electric charge is a property of a particle that affects how it behaves around other particles.
3. Protons have a positive charge; electrons have a negative charge; neutrons have no charge.
4. With equal numbers of protons and electrons, an atom has no charge.
5. Protons and neutrons are in the nucleus of an atom; electrons are around the nucleus.
6. Atoms sometimes gain or lose electrons, which gives them a positive or negative charge.
7. Atoms with the same charge push away from one another; atoms with opposite charges attract.
8. A balloon with a negative charge is attracted to—and sticks to—a wall with a positive charge.
9. Lightning is an electrostatic discharge from a cloud to the ground.
10. A battery is a source of an electric current; energy stations produce most of our electricity.