**Vocabulary: Radiation**



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* Filament – the wire in a light bulb that gives off light when heated by electricity.
	+ Most incandescent light bulbs have filaments made of tungsten.
	+ In fact, *any* hot material will radiate light, although the light is not always visible to humans.
* Infrared – a type of light energy not visible to humans.
	+ Objects at room temperature give off infrared light, as do hotter objects.
	+ Like all radiation, infrared waves can be absorbed, causing an object to heat up. This is how “heat lamps” work.
	+ Because infrared cannot be seen, sometimes people mistakenly refer to this type of radiation as “heat waves.” In reality, *any* kind of radiation can transfer heat.
	+ Standard incandescent light bulbs radiate much more infrared light than visible light. This is why many see them as inefficient sources of light.
* Kelvin scale – a metric temperature scale used by scientists.
	+ The zero point on the Kelvin scale is *absolute zero*, the coldest any substance can possibly be. This is equivalent to -273.16 degrees Celsius.
	+ According to the Kelvin scale, water freezes at 273.16 degrees and water boils at 373.16 degrees.
* Radiation – energy given off in the form of light.
	+ Some types of “light” are not visible to humans, such as infrared or ultraviolet.
	+ A microwave oven uses a type of light called “microwaves” to heat food.
	+ Radio waves and x-rays are other kinds of radiation.