**Vocabulary: Radiation**

dictionary2

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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.