

The nuclear debate – Glossary

atmosphere noun [countable]

the air around the Earth or around another planet
Saturn's moon, Titan, has an atmosphere mainly made of nitrogen.

come up phrasal verb [intransitive]

to be mentioned and need to be considered
A number of interesting points came up at today's meeting.

earthquake noun [countable]

a sudden shaking movement of the ground

fossil fuel noun [countable/uncountable]

a fuel such as coal or oil, made from decayed material from animals or plants that lived many thousands of years ago

gap noun [countable]

something missing from a situation or a system that prevents it from being complete or perfect
We will then carry out research to fill in the gaps in our knowledge.

global warming noun [uncountable]

the slow increase in the temperature of the Earth caused partly by the greenhouse effect increasing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere

greenhouse gas noun [countable]

a gas that stops heat from escaping from the atmosphere and causes the greenhouse effect. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas.

leak noun [countable]

an amount of liquid or gas that comes out of a hole or crack in something
The explosion was caused by a gas leak in the main line.

nuclear adjective

relating to energy produced by changing the structure of the central part of an atom
nuclear power/energy

nuclear waste noun [uncountable]

dangerous substances that remain after nuclear energy has been produced

permanent adjective

happening or existing for a long time or for all time in the future (**permanently** = ADVERB)
She suffered permanent brain damage as a result of the accident.

point out phrasal verb [transitive]

to tell someone something
Thank you for pointing that out.

power plant noun [countable]

AMERICAN a large building that contains machines that produce power for large numbers of people, especially electricity

pros and cons noun [plural]

the advantages and disadvantages of something

radiation noun [uncountable]

CHEMISTRY a form of energy produced during a nuclear reaction that is used for making electrical power but can also kill or harm humans who receive too much of it

radioactive adjective

CHEMISTRY a radioactive substance contains a very harmful form of energy that is produced during nuclear reactions. This energy is called radiation.

range verb [intransitive]

to be included in a group of numbers, ages, measurements, etc. with particular fixed limits

renewable adjective

renewable energy and natural materials replace themselves by natural processes, so that they are never completely used up
The wood in our furniture all comes from renewable sources.

resource noun [countable, usually plural]

things such as coal, trees, and oil that exist in nature and can be used by people
Many of these countries are rich in timber and mineral resources.

run out phrasal verb [intransitive]

to use all of something and not have any left
Some hospitals are running out of blood supplies.