

Vocabulary



inclined plane a simple machine made of a flat, sloping surface

A ramp is a kind of inclined plane. Let's say you use a ramp to load a box into the back of a truck. It takes less force to move the box using the ramp than it takes to lift the box straight up.

screw a simple machine made of an inclined plane wrapped around a small rod

The threads that wrap around a screw are like a long inclined plane. It takes less force to drive a screw into a board than it does to pound the screw into the board.

simple machine a tool that makes it easier to move objects

Inclined planes, screws, and wedges are all simple machines. Simple machines often let you do a job using less force than it would take you to do the job without the simple machine.

wedge a simple machine made from two inclined planes placed together to make a sharp edge

Most cutting blades are wedges. If you look at a knife blade, you can see that it forms a "V." A wedge is also used to split wood.

work when a force moves an object from one place to another

Work is only done when a force actually moves an object. If the object doesn't move, no work is done.