

Elements and components

Focus

Look carefully at the words to see if you can make more sense of the sentence.

A **structure** is an **organised** combination of connected **elements** and **components** which together perform a required **function**.

What does this mean?

Components include:

- panels
- bricks
- tiles
- pipes
- lengths of timber
- steel members
- frames
- cabinets.

Components go together to make the **elements** in a building:

- roofs
- floors
- walls
- foundations
- stairs
- doors
- windows.

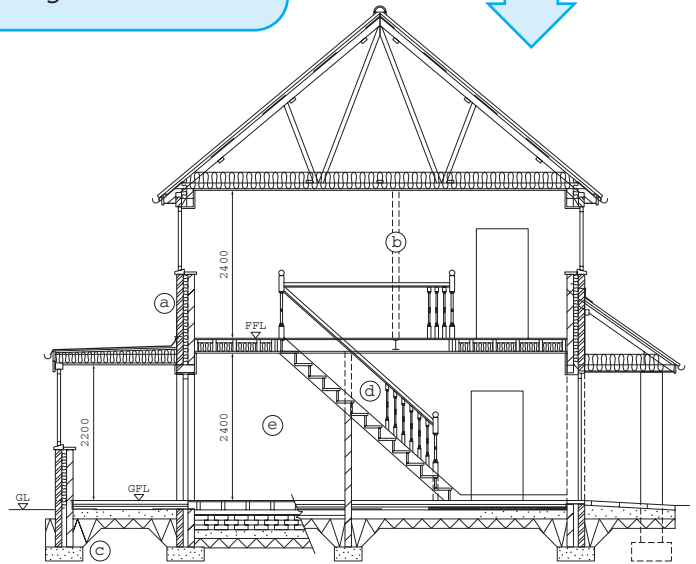
There are: *primary elements*
secondary elements
finishing elements.

Elements are **organised** into a **structure** that has a particular **use**.

Match these **elements** to the labels in this diagram:

- external wall
- internal wall
- upper floor
- ground floor
- foundations.

A full-size version of the diagram is provided in the Source material.



You'll find the meaning of some words in a glossary.

A **glossary** is a list of specialist and technical words arranged in alphabetical order.

Non-specialist words can be found in a dictionary.

A dictionary is also arranged in alphabetical order.

You can work out the meanings of some words by thinking about what you know already and what the rest of the sentence says.

It sometimes helps to explain things to a friend in your own words.

Always ask if there is something that puzzles you.

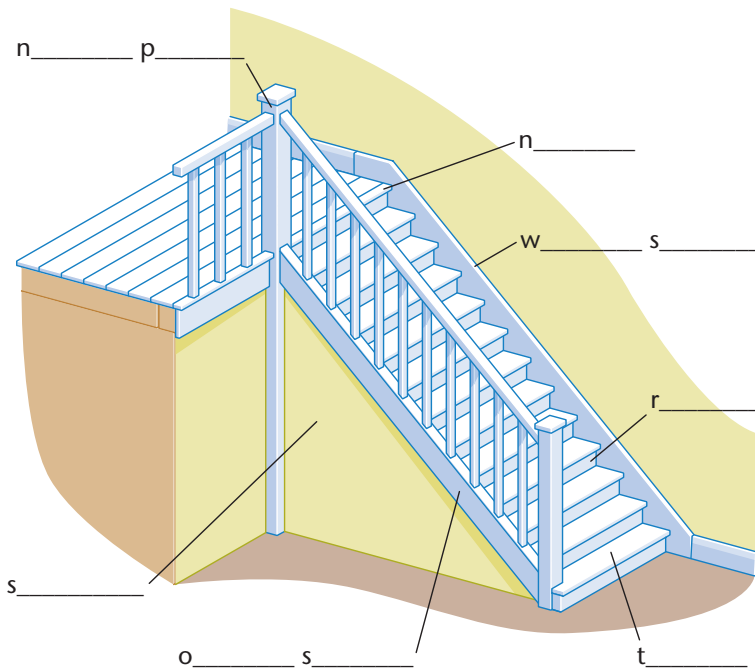
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Task

Task 1

Use this page from a glossary to complete the labels on the diagram.

What does this mean?



newel (post) a large vertical post at either end of a flight of stairs into which the *string* is jointed

nosing the overhanging edge of a stair *tread*

riser the vertical part of a *step*

spandrel the triangular area formed under a flight of *stairs*

stair the series of *steps* that form a stairway

step a combination of *tread* and *riser*

wall string/outer string the inclined board of a *stair* into which the treads and risers are cut or housed. Depending on their position they will be called either *wall string* or *outer string*

tread the horizontal part of a *step*

Structure – this word comes from the Latin word meaning ‘to build’. The word ‘structure’ is used in different ways. Part of the word also appears in these words.

structures

structural

substructure

superstructure

construction

constructing

constructed

destruction

destructive

Task 2

Choose the best word from the list above to complete each of the following sentences.

- 1 The _____ engineer does calculations and drawings to help an architect design a building.
- 2 _____ sites can be dangerous places.
- 3 The _____ of a building is below ground level.
- 4 One of the jobs of a demolition gang is the _____ of existing structures.
- 5 The _____ of a building is above ground level.