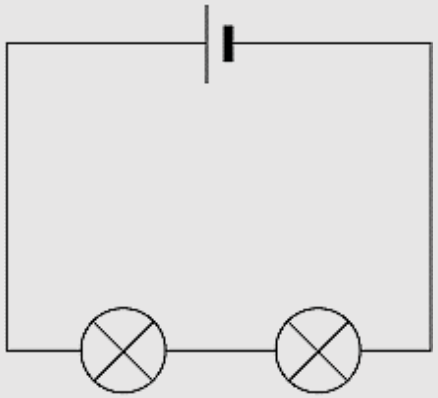
Physics: Series & Parallel Circuits

Key word	Definition
Ammeter	This equipment measures the current in a circuit
Voltmeter	This equipment measures the potential difference in a circuit
Series	This is when the components are placed in a line one after the other.
Parallel	This is when the components are placed opposite to each other.
Current	The amount of electric charge that passes a point.
Potential Difference	Difference in electrical energy between two parts of a circuit

Keyword	Measured in	Unit
Current	Amps	A
Potential Difference	Voltage	V
Charge	Coulombs	C
Resistance	Ohms	Ω
Power	Watts	W



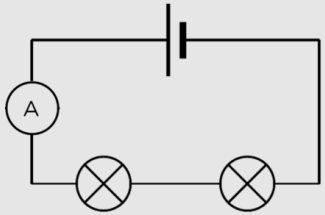
Series Circuits

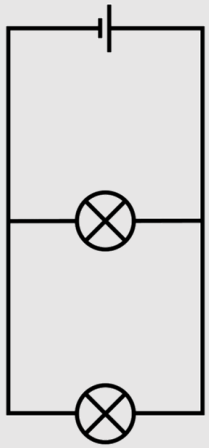
If a bulb breaks in the circuit above the whole circuit stops working.

Potential difference is **shared** between all components.

Current is the **same** at any point in the circuit.

Ammeters are placed in **series** to measure the current in a circuit.





Parallel Circuits

If either bulb breaks in this circuit the other bulb will still work.

Potential difference is the **same** across all components.

Current is **shared** between branches.

Voltmeters are placed in **parallel** to measure potential difference.