

Physics 1 Honors: Chapter 1 Vocabulary

Accuracy: A characteristic of a measured value that describes how well the results of a measurement agree with the “real” value, which is the accepted value, as measured by competent experimenters.

Dependent Variable: The factor in an investigation that depends on the action of another variable.

Dimensional Analysis: A method of treating units as algebraic quantities that can be cancelled; can be used to check that an answer will be in the correct units.

Hypothesis: A possible explanation for a problem using what is known and what is observed.

Inverse Relationship: A hyperbolic relationship that exists when one variable depends on the reciprocal of the other variable.

Line of Best Fit: A line drawn on a graph as close as possible to all the data points; used to describe data and predict where new data will appear on the graph.

Linear Relationship: A relationship in which the dependent variable varies linearly with the independent variable.

Measurement: A comparison between an unknown quantity and a standard.

Model: A representation of an idea, event, structure, or object to help people better understand it.

Physics: The branch of science that studies matter and energy and their relationship.

Precision: A characteristic of a measured value describing the degree of exactness of a measurement.

Quadratic Relationship: A parabolic relationship that results when one variable depends on the square of another variable.

Scientific Law: A statement about what happens in nature and seems to be true all the time.

Scientific Methods: The patterns of investigation procedures.

Scientific Theory: An explanation of things or events based on knowledge gained from many observations and investigations.

Significant Figures: All the valid digits in a measurement, the number of which indicates the measurement’s precision.