



definitions



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### Semiconductor [sem-ee-kuhn-duhk-ter, sem-ahy-] show IPA (1)

EXAMPLES | WORD ORIGIN

#### noun

- 1 a substance, as silicon or germanium, with electrical conductivity intermediate between that of an insulator and a conductor: a basic component of various kinds of electronic circuit element (semiconductor device) used in communications, control, and detection technology and in computers.
- 2 a semiconductor device.

#### NEARBY WORDS

semicivilized, semiclassical, semicolon, semicoma, semiconducting, semiconductor, semiconductor diode, semiconductor laser, semiconscious, semiconservative replication, semicrystalline

ORIGIN OF SEMICONDUCTOR

First recorded in 1875-80; semi- + conductor

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#### EXAMPLES FROM THE WEB FOR SEMICONDUCTOR

Likewise, the semiconductor industry as we know it today originated in the highly taxed 1970s, not the 1980s. DAVID'S BOOK CLUB: UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES | DAVID FRUM | JULY 3, 2012 | DAILY BEAST

Take Intel, which has been the leading maker of semiconductor chips for decades. WHAT MARKET PANIC? HALCYON DAYS FOR SILICON VALLEY | ZACHARY KARABELL | MARCH 7, 2012 | DAILY BEAST

It may not be the only impurity causing the peculiar behavior of this semiconductor, but it does seem a likely candidate. THE ATOMIC FINGERPRINT | BERNARD KEISCH

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WORD OF THE DAY

### orgulous

adjective | [awr-gyuh-luhs, -guh-] ■)) SEE DEFINITION

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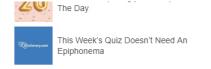


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BRITISH DICTIONARY DEFINITIONS FOR SEMICONDUCTOR

Difference?

## semiconductor / ([semiken'dakte])/

#### noun

- a substance, such as germanium or silicon, that has an electrical conductivity that increases with temperature and is intermediate between that of a metal and an insulator, The behaviour may be exhibited by the pure substance (intrinsic semiconductor) or as a result of impurities (extrinsic semiconductor)
- 2 a device, such as a transistor or integrated circuit, that depends on the properties of such a substance
  - b (as modifier): a semiconductor diode

DERIVED FORMS

semiconduction, noun

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WORD ORIGIN AND HISTORY FOR SEMICONDUCTOR

## semiconductor

n.

1838, "material whose electrical conductivity is between that of a conductor and that of an insulator," from semi- + conductor. Modern very specific sense is recorded from 1931.

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SCIENCE DEFINITIONS FOR SEMICONDUCTOR

## semiconductor [sĕm'ē-kən-dŭk'tər] •())

Any of various solid substances, such as silicon or germanium, that conduct electricity more easily than insulators but less easily than conductors. In semiconductors, thermal energy is enough to cause a small number of electrons to escape from the valence bonds between the atoms (the **valence band**); they orbit instead in the higher-energy **conduction band**, in which they are relatively free. The resulting gaps in the valence band are called **holes**. Semiconductors are vital to the design of electronic components and circuitry, including transistors, laser diodes, and memory and computer processing circuits.

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# semiconductor

A material that conducts (see conduction) electricity, but very poorly. Silicon is the most common and familiar semiconductor. Devices made from semiconductors, such as the transistor, are the basis of the modern microelectric industry.

THE NEW DICTIONARY OF CULTURAL LITERACY, THIRD EDITION

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