Materials Properties Research Handout

Note: These properties have more than one correct definition and example. Example answers are provided.

Example Answers

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| **Property** | **Definition** | **Example** |
| **brittle** | **Hard but liable to break or shatter easily.** | **glass** |
| **conductor** | **A substance, body, or device that readily** [**conducts**](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/conduct) **heat, electricity,** [**sound**](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/sound)**, etc.** | **copper** |
| **durable** | **Able to withstand wear, pressure or damage; hard-wearing.** | **steel** |
| **elastic** | **Capable of returning to its original length, shape, etc., after being stretched, deformed, compressed or expanded.** | **rubber** |
| **flexible** | **Capable of being bent, usually without breaking; easily bent.** | **plastic** |
| **hard** | **Not soft; solid and firm to the touch; unyielding to pressure.** | **stone** |
| **heavy** | **Of great** [**weight**](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/weight)**; hard to lift or carry.** | **concrete** |
| **inexpensive** | **Not** [**expensive**](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/expensive)**; not high in price; costing little.** | **wood** |
| **insulator** | **A material or an** [**object**](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/object) **that does not easily allow heat, electricity, light or sound to pass through it.** | **wool** |
| **light (weight)** | **Of little weight; not heavy.** | **paper** |
| **rigid** | **Unable to bend or be forced out of shape; not flexible.** | **concrete** |
| **rough** | **Having an uneven or irregular surface; not smooth or level.** | **stone** |
| **smooth** | **Free from projections or unevenness of surface; not rough.** | **glass** |
| **soft** | **Yielding readily to touch or pressure; easily penetrated, divided or changed in shape; not hard or stiff.** | **cotton** |
| **strong** | **Able to resist strain, force, wear, etc*.*** | **steel** |