

Activity 1: Circuits and symbols

A circuit always needs a power source, such as a **cell** or **battery**, with wires connected to both the **positive (+)** and **negative (-)** ends. In physics, what we normally think of as a single battery is actually called a cell. The term battery is used to describe more than one cell joined together. Notice that the symbol for a battery is made from joining two cell symbols together.

A circuit can also contain other electrical **components**, such as bulbs, buzzers or motors, which allow electricity to pass through. Electricity will only travel around a circuit that is **complete**. That means it has no gaps. When drawing circuits, we use **symbols** to show the different components as shown below.



Cell



Battery



Bulb



Buzzer



Motor



Switch
(on)

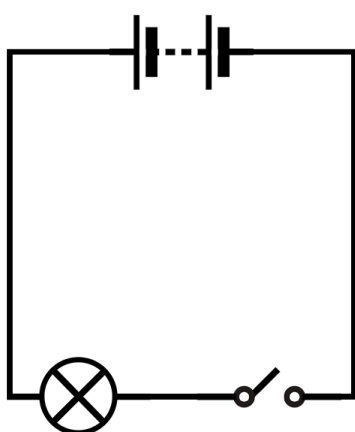


Switch
(off)

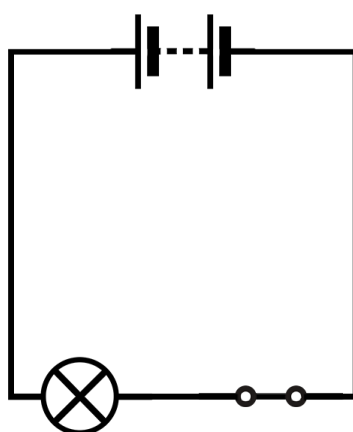


Wire

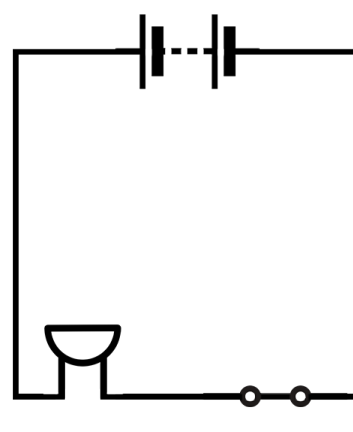
Which of these circuits do you think will light up a torch?



Circuit A



Circuit B



Circuit C

