

KIDS' CORNER

Get Plugged In

Jumpstart your brain and see if you can figure out which of these facts about electricity are true and which are false.



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| 1 | You should try and convince your parents to use compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) rather than regular incandescent bulbs. | T | F |
| 2 | You should always turn the water off while brushing your teeth. | T | F |
| 3 | It's more important to turn off electronics like TVs and computers than the lights in your bedroom. | T | F |
| 4 | When it comes to heating up food, a microwave or toaster oven uses less energy than an oven. | T | F |
| 5 | A fan uses as much electricity as an air conditioner. | T | F |
| 6 | If you leave your computer plugged into the wall after you turn it off, it still uses up energy. | T | F |
| 7 | The best time of day to use appliances like washers, dryers, and dishwashers is in the middle of the day. | T | F |
| 8 | If a building has a revolving door, you should use it whenever you're heading inside or out. | T | F |
| 9 | Keeping a door or window open while the air conditioning is on isn't a big deal. | T | F |
| 10 | On sunny summer days, keep your drapes and blinds closed to save energy. | T | F |
| 11 | On sunny winter days, keep your drapes and blinds closed to save energy. | T | F |



Answers:

1. **True.** CFLs use 75% less electricity than standard incandescent bulbs, and they last up to ten times longer. Make the switch!
2. **True.** Keeping the water running while you brush your teeth can use up to 10 litres of water!
3. **False.** Leaving on any of these items wastes electricity. Do your part and turn off your lights and electronics when you're finished using them.
4. **True.**
5. **False.** A fan uses about one-tenth the electricity that an air conditioner uses. That's why it's a good idea to use a fan instead of the AC whenever possible.
6. **True.** Your computer is using up small amounts of electricity even when it's turned off. This is called "phantom load." Lots of other household items, like TVs, cell phones chargers, and stereos, slowly drain electricity all day, every day – whether they're turned on or not. To fight the phantoms, use a power bar with a timer. It'll shut off your devices at the end of the day, and help you be a ghost buster!
7. **False.** These appliances should be used later in the evening. That way, they're not being used during peak electricity times.
8. **True.** Believe it or not, about eight times as much warm air escapes when a swing door is opened when compared to a revolving door. When you help cut down on the warm air that's leaving a building, it means the heat doesn't have to be turned up higher. And that saves energy!
9. **False.** All that cool air is heading outside and that's just a plain old waste of energy!
10. **True.** This will keep the heat out, so your air conditioner doesn't have to work as hard.
11. **False.** If you keep them open, the sun will warm your rooms. Plus, it'll bring in natural light, so you don't need to turn on a light. Here's an added tip: if you close the drapes and blinds at night, it'll help keep the heat in.

