

Wheels and Axles

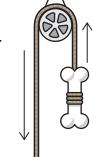
Wheels and axles help move weight around. They make it easy to keep heavy stuff rolling by reducing rubbing (friction), which slows things down.

Examples: bicycle, wheelchair

Pulleys

Pulleys help lift heavy loads.
When you pull down on a rope that loops through a pulley system, the attached load is easier to lift.

Examples: elevator, crane



Levers

Levers lift and pry.

When you push down on one end of a lever, it seesaws on a support point (fulcrum) helping you lift a heavy load or pry something open.

Examples: crow bar, bottle opener

Inclined Planes

Inclined planes help move heavy objects higher. When you push things up a slope, you need less force than if you lift the object straight up.

Examples: ramp, staircase



Screws

Screws hold things together. When you screw something together, the screw grips the material tight.

Examples: bolt, jar lid



Wedges

Wedges force objects apart. When you push the pointy end of a wedge into an object, the force splits the object in two. Many wedges have handles to make them easier to use.

Examples: axe, scissors