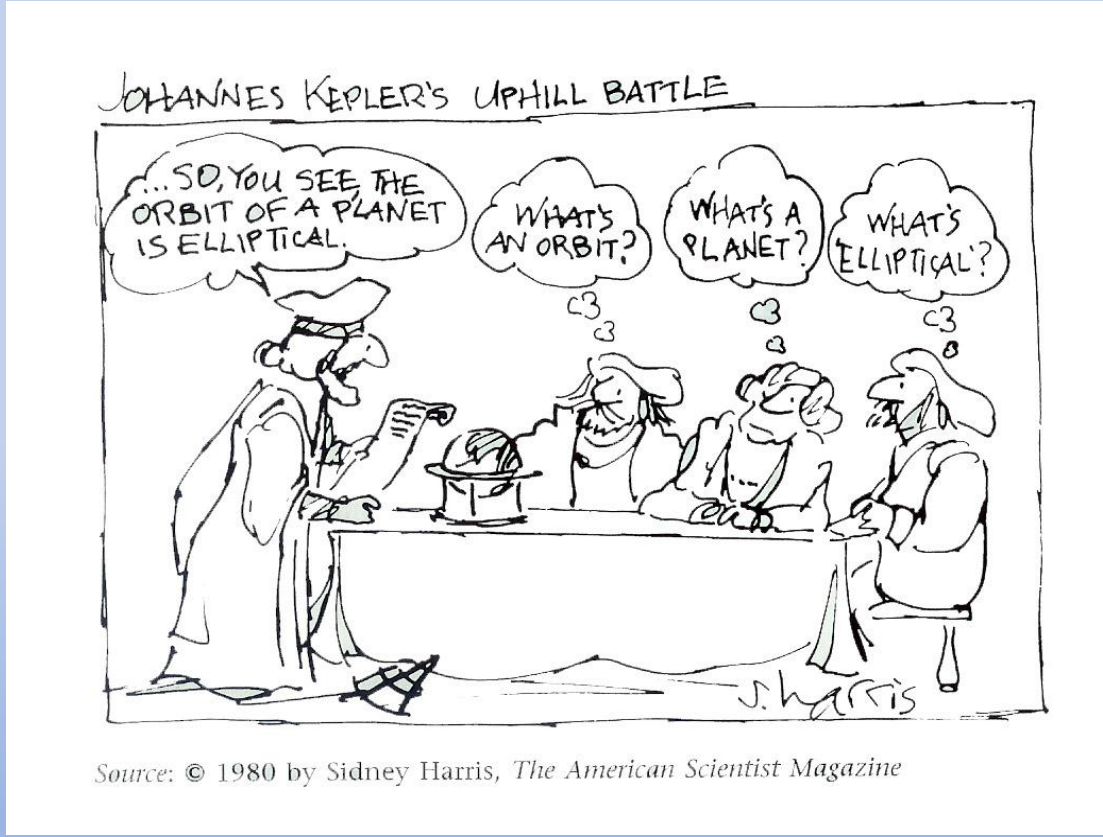
Subject specific vocabulary – a barrier to learning in science.



Source: © 1980 by Sidney Harris, *The American Scientist Magazine*

Simon Rees, Megan Bruce, Carole Rushall, Lorraine Knight – Foundation Centre.

Sarah Marshall, Jane Ives – New College, Durham.

Vanessa Kind – Education Department, Durham University

Aims

- To develop student confidence in the use of subject specific vocabulary.
- To equip students with better strategies as they progress through university.

Questionnaire responses

- 59 Responses

When I ask the lecturer I can feel embarrassed. When I still don't understand so I try to look it up

Glossaries, because you can sit down and have a session of learning them

Visualisation and modelling – I find it easier to understand and learn when I can physically see or make what I am trying to understand

Analogies – every day experience so it tends to stick in my brain easily

The E-glossary

A focussed subject specific resource.

Appropriate level of explanation.

Student contributions.

A variety of explanations.

Explanations in different languages.

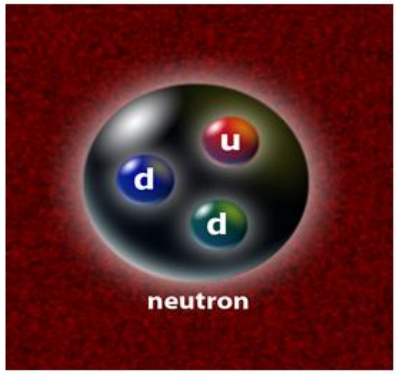
Neutron

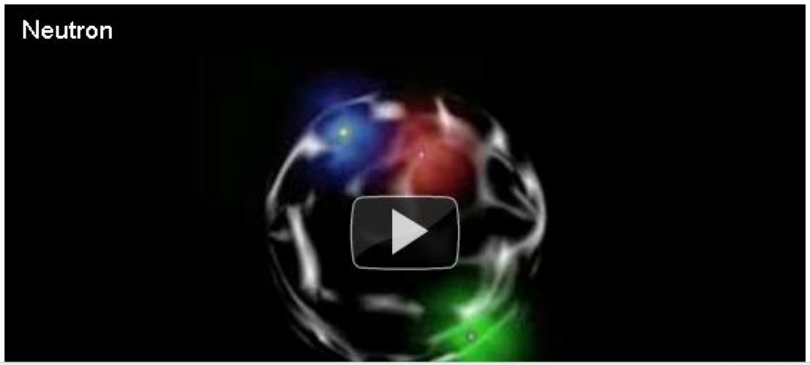
Mon, 07/04/2011 - 13:53 — crazyman

A neutron is a sub-atomic particle (meaning it is smaller than an atom). The nucleus of an atom is composed of protons and neutrons which are circled by electrons. A neutron is almost the same size as a proton, but unlike protons which have a positive charge, neutrons do not have any electrical charge.

Neutrons can exist outside of an atomic nucleus, which is a type of particle radiation called neutron radiation.

Neutrons are composed of even smaller sub-atomic particles know as quarks. A neutron has two down quarks and one up quark. A down quark has an electrical charge of -1/3 and an up quark has an electrical charge of +2/3 giving the neutron a neutral electrical charge.





The student’s opinion