

Looking at the  
contents page,  
what do you  
think this book  
is about?

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# What is a magnet?

A magnet is a piece of iron or steel that can pull some materials towards it.



circular magnet



horseshoe magnet



button magnets



fridge magnets

▲ Magnets come in all shapes and sizes.

Magnets can pick up things. When something is picked up by a magnet, we say the magnet has attracted it.

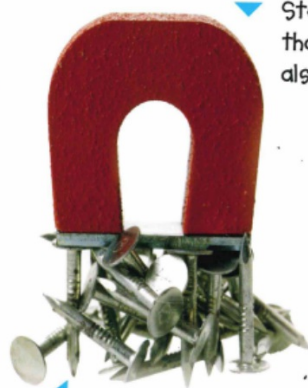


▲ The bar magnet has attracted the paperclips.

# Magnetic and non-magnetic

Magnets will only attract objects made of steel and iron. These are called magnetic materials.

Steel and iron are both metals that are magnetic. Aluminium is also a metal but it is not magnetic.



steel nails



aluminium can

Lots of materials are not attracted to a magnet.  
These are called non-magnetic materials.



wooden spoon



paper bag

▲ These objects will  
not be attracted  
to a magnet.



plastic comb

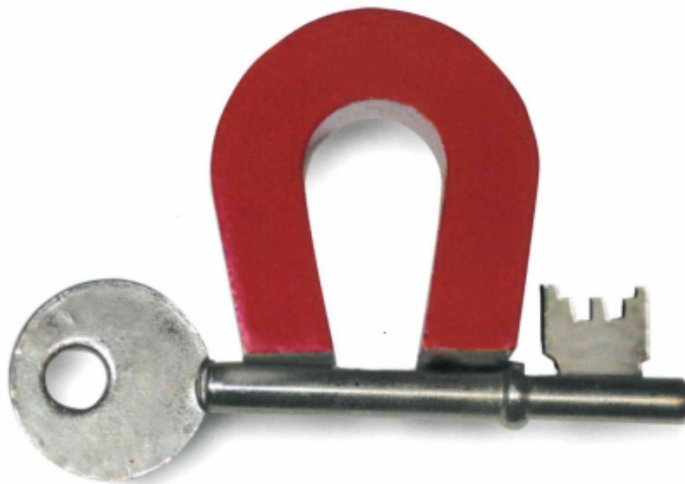
# Sorting materials

You can sort materials by whether they are magnetic or non-magnetic.



◀ Which of these do you think would be attracted to a magnet?

Some keys are made of steel. Other keys are made of a metal called brass, which is non-magnetic.



- ▲ You can use a magnet to sort materials. This magnet has attracted this key. Is the key made of brass or steel?