Reflections of Light

Mirrors

A mirror is a surface usually consisting of a glass that reflects light incident on it to form clear erect images.

Reflection

When light is incident on a surface, it gets reflected or it bounces back. Any surface that is really well polished or shiny acts like a mirror. The phenomenon of light bouncing off surfaces is called reflection.

Characteristics of images

Images have colour, unlike shadows. They are formed due to the converging rays of light that comes after reflecting from objects.

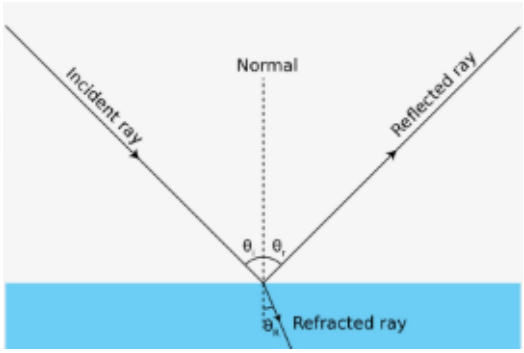
A real image is formed by actual convergence of light rays. Real images always form on a screen.

A virtual image is the apparent convergence of diverging light rays. Virtual images cannot be obtained on a screen.

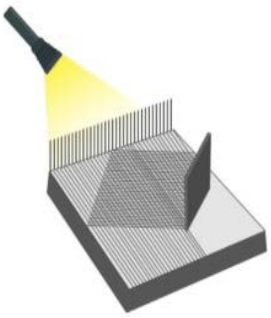
Reflections of Light

Plane mirrors and images formed by them.

A plane mirror changes the direction of light that falls on it.



This enables us to see images. Take the example of a comb placed in front of a mirror over a dark coloured paper. Let a beam of light pass through the comb on the mirror using a torch. Then an image is observed similar to the one given



We observe that the light gets reflected from this mirror and it travels in straight lines