

Reflection from Plane Mirror



Real and Virtual Images

Real Image: When the image can be obtained on a screen, it is called **real image**. Real image is formed in front of mirror. Images formed on the retina are real images. Images formed on the film of a camera are real images.

Virtual Image: When the image cannot be obtained on a screen, it is called **virtual image**. Virtual image is formed behind the mirror.



Mirror

- Any polished or silver surface which has the property of reflecting light is called **mirror**.
- They are usually made by placing a smooth coating of metal onto a glass surface.
- The metal coating reflects the light.

When an object is placed in front of plane mirror its images formed in the plane mirror.



Characteristics of image formed by a plane mirror

- Since the image cannot be obtained on screen it is virtual.
- Images of the same size as the object.
- Images formed as far behind the mirror as the object is in front of it.
- Image is erect.
- Image is laterally inverted.

Reflection from Plane Mirror



Uses of Plane Mirror

- The most important use of a plane mirror is that it works as looking glass.
- It is sometimes used for signaling by scouts and the army.
- It is used to make a kaleidoscope.
- It is used in making periscopes.
- It is used as a reflector in solar cooker.