BatteryStuff.com Terminology, Abbreviations, and Definitions.

Terminology & Abbreviation	Definition
AC	Alternating Current: The type of power sent over the grid, available in your house, or inverted from DC. In the USA this is typically 110 or 220 volts
AGM	Absorbed Glass Matt - Refers to batteries manufactured by using a form of Fiberglass Matt sandwiched between the lead plates. This serves to Absorb the acid, making the battery highly leakproof, and adding to its durability
AMP HOURS	A unit of measure for a battery's electrical storage capacity. The standard rating is an Amp rating taken for 20 Hours. What this means, say for a 100 AH rated battery is this: Draw from the battery for 20 hours and it will provide a total of 100 amps. That translates to about 5 amps an hour. 5 x 20 = 100. However, it's very important to know that the total time of discharge and load applied is not a linear relationship. As your load increases, your realized capacity decreases. This means if you discharged that same 100 AH battery by a 100 amp load, it will not give you one hour of runtime. On the contrary, the perceived capacity of the battery will be that of 64 Amp Hours.
C-RATE	Discharge or charge current, in amperes, expressed in multiples of the rated capacity. For example, C/10 for a 100AH battery would be 10 amps, while C/4 would be 25 amps.
CCA	Cold Cranking Amps is a rating used in the battery industry to define a battery's ability to start an engine in cold temperatures. The rating is the number of amps a new, fully charged battery can deliver at 0° Fahrenheit for 30 seconds, while maintaining a voltage of at least 7.2 volts, for a 12-volt battery. The higher the CCA rating, the greater the starting power of the battery. This number is not relevant in a non-starting application!
DC	Direct Current (D.C.) is the type of electrical current that a battery can supply. One terminal is always positive and another is always negative
DRY CELL	A cell with immobilized electrolyte. This is used for a number of applications. This term can suit any number of applications, including

	AGM and Gel
ELECTROLYTE	A solution of sulfuric acid and water which conducts current through the movement of ions (charged particles in the electrolyte solution) between positive and negative plates. It supplies sulfate ions for reaction with the active material of both positive and negative plates.
FLOAT CHARGE	Commonly referred to as trickle charge, but in reality quite different. A proper float charge will adjust the current to the battery while maintaining a pre-determined voltage level.
GEL	Gel batteries are constructed similarly to standard wet cell batteries, except that the acid has a silicate stiffener that prevents the acid from vacating the lead plate
MA	Milliamps, 1/1000th of an amp. or, 1 amp equals 1000 milliamps
NOMINAL VOLTAGE	The normal, expected operating range of a device.
OCV	Open Circuit Voltage is the voltage of a battery when it is not delivering or receiving power. It is 2.11 volts for a fully charged battery cell.
OHM	A measure of resistance that causes one volt to produce a current of one amp.
PARALLEL	When two or more batteries are hooked together by connecting all the positive terminals, and then all the negative terminals together. This retains the original voltage but adds together the capacity of each battery.
RC	Reserve Capacity is a battery industry rating, defining a battery's ability to power a vehicle or device with an inoperative alternator or charging system. The rating is the number of minutes a battery at 80 degrees F can be discharged at 25 amps and maintain a voltage of 10.5 volts for a 12-volt battery. The higher the reserve rating, the longer your vehicle can operate should your alternator or fan belt fail.
SERIES	When batteries are connected together by connecting the positive of one to the negative of the other. The voltage of each battery adds up but retains the same capacity
SG	Specific Gravity is the measurement used to express electrolyte strength. SG compares the weight of the electrolyte to water, which has an SG of 1.000. A full charge should be about 1.265 per cell at 77 degrees F (25 degrees C). This changes with temperature. This cannot be measured in sealed batteries. Pure acid has an SG of 1.835. A fully discharged battery will have an SG of about 1.12. SG should not be measured right after water is added as the reading will not be accurate

	until the electrolyte is fully mixed. This could take hours or days - an equalization charge will speed this up considerably. The SG in many AGM batteries may be as high as 1.365, but there is no practical way to measure it
SULFATION	Even though Lead Sulphate is created in the materials of plates during normal discharging, this term is used to describe the generation of a different form (large crystals) of Lead Sulphate, which will not readily convert back to normal material when the battery is charged. Sulfation occurs when a battery is stored too long in a discharged condition, if it is never fully charged, or if electrolyte has become abnormally low due to excessive water loss from overcharging and/or evaporation.
TRICKLE CHARGE	Typically refers to a charge that applies a constant, but small, current to the battery. This is different than a Float charge, though often the term is misused to construe one or the other.

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