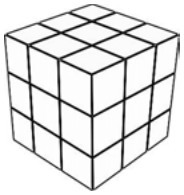
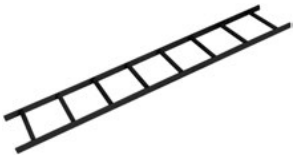
Concept Cousins

Have you ever mixed up the names of two people, like classmates at school? It seems to happen most often when two people are similar in some ways. The same happens in science. It's easy to mix up terms that *sort of* mean the same thing, but not exactly.

Check out these examples. (Ignore the blank lines below the pictures for now.)

MASS	WEIGHT	So, what's the difference?
		**Mass** and **weight** are similar ideas. They both tell about how much matter is in an item. The difference is that mass does not change due to gravity, but weight is measured using gravity (like the apple on the scale). Think about it: You would weigh less on the moon, but your mass would be the same.

VOLUME	CAPACITY	So, what's the difference?
		**Volume** and **capacity** are similar ideas. Volume describes the amount of space that something takes up, whereas capacity describes the space in a container that can contain (hold) a substance.

LENGTH	DISTANCE	So, what's the difference?
		**Length** and **distance** are similar ideas. Length is usually used when referring to the long side of something, and it implies straightness. Distance simply means how far two points are from each other.