

Bridge vocab:

Tension: when forces tend to lengthen an object by pulling from opposite ends

Compression: when forces tend to shorten (compress) an object by pushing from opposite ends.

Shear: type of force that causes or tends to cause two contiguous parts of the same body to slide relative to each other in a direction parallel to their plane of contact. Two parallel, but not collinear, forces which tend to deform an object.

Torsion: twisting shear.

Member: An individual angle, beam, plate, or built piece intended to become an integral part of an assembled frame or structure

Anchor: large weight at the end of the cable of a suspension bridge which keeps tension on the suspending cable that supports the deck

Deck: roadway surface

Tower: tall vertical structure that rests on the ground and supports the weight of the bridge.

Dead Load: the weight of the bridge itself

Live Load: the weight of all the cars, trains, etc that are supported by the bridge.