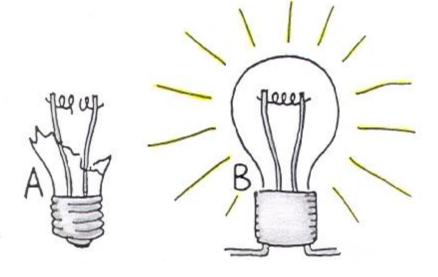
Which of these lamps is emitting electromagnetic radiation?

- a) Lamp A.
- b) Lamp B.
- c) Both.
- d) Neither.

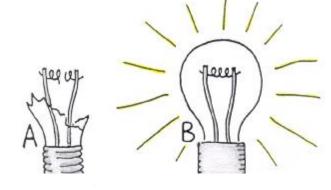


CONCEPTUAL Physics

## NEXT-TIME QUESTION

Which of these lamps is emitting electromagnetic radiation?

- a) Lamp A.
- b) Lamp B.
- c) Both.
- d) Neither.



don't they cool to absolute zero?

## Answer: c. both

All bodies with any temperature at all continually emit electromagnetic waves. The frequency of these waves varies with temperature,  $f \sim T$ . Lamp B is hot enough to emit visible light. Lamp A is cooler, and the radiation it emits is too low in frequency to be visible — it emits infrared waves, which aren't seen with the eye. You emit waves as well. Even in a completely dark room your waves are there. Your friends may not be able to see you, but a rattlesnake can!

