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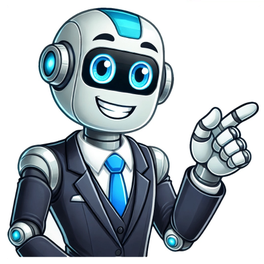

mechanical waves similar to electromagnetic waves have some things in common, but they also have many differences too. Similarities: both kinds of waves can transfer energy from one place to another, and we can describe them by their wavelength and frequency, as well as show properties like reflection, refraction, and interference. Another thing is that both types of waves are useful for us. Differences: mechanical waves need a medium, such as air, water, or solids, to travel through. But electromagnetic waves can travel without a medium, even in space. Mechanical waves come from particles vibrating in the medium, while electromagnetic waves come from electric and magnetic fields changing back and forth. Also, mechanical waves are usually slower than electromagnetic waves.