Just Give Me the Facts Jack

The Facts on Current Electricity:

- The steady flow of electrons between objects or places. It comes to our homes from far away places through the use of honking big wires.
- This flow is a lot like the flow of water as it will try to find the easiest way to get from the start to the end.
- For flow to happen, the electrons need a conductor. This is a substance that allows electrons to move easily through it…for example, metal.
- This system will only work in a closed circuit. Remember, a closed circuit just means that the electrons are forced to stay on a path and that the path is clear for electron movement.
- This is the kind of electricity that powers appliances in your home such as your washing machine, your hair dryer and your TV.
- This is also the same electricity that is found in batteries. You know, batteries. Those things that keep your i-pod tunes pumpin'.

The Facts on Static Electricity:

- This is a just a simple build up of electrons.
- It is produced by friction like when you rub your feet on carpet or a balloon on your hair.
- The friction causes some objects to become more negatively charged.
- It stays in one place until it jumps to another object.
- Static does not need a closed circuit. This means it does not need a path (like wires) to follow.
- Static electricity is <u>usually</u> weak and not dangerous.
- Lightning though is caused by static in clouds and IT IS DANGEROUS!
- When it has built up enough, a bundle of static (electrons) will try to find the quickest way to get to a positively charged object (usually the ground).