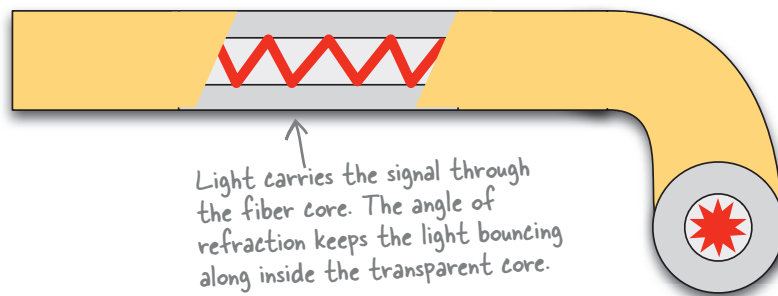


## Introducing fiber-optic cables

Fiber-optic cables send network information using light rather than electrons. Light bounces through the inside of the cable, carrying the network signal.

The light passes through the transparent core of the fiber-optic cable. This core is made of transparent glass or plastic, which allows light to pass through it easily. The layer just outside of the core is called **cladding**. Cladding acts a bit like a mirror, reflecting light so that it bounces along the core and doesn't escape.



The outside of the cable is coated with polymer, and Kevlar® threads running between the core and the coating add strength and protection to the cable.

## Fiber-optics have connectors too

Just like CAT-5 and coaxial cables, the ends of a fiber-optic cable have connectors. There's a variety of connector types that can be used.

