A wand is a quasi-sentient [magical](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Magic" \o "Magic) instrument through which a [witch or wizard](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Wizardkind" \o "Wizardkind)channels her or his magical powers to centralise the effects for more complex results. Most spells are done with the aid of wands, but [spells can be cast without the use of wands](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Wandless_magic" \o "Wandless magic). Wandless magic is, however, very difficult and requires much concentration and incredible skill; advanced wizards and some magical creatures such as [house elves](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/House-elf) are known to perform such magic.

Wands are manufactured and sold by [wandmakers](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Wandmaker" \o "Wandmaker), the most famous of these in Great Britain being [Ollivander](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Garrick_Ollivander" \o "Garrick Ollivander), and in Eastern Europe [Gregorovitch](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Mykew_Gregorovitch" \o "Mykew Gregorovitch). Each wand consists of a specific type of [wood](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Wand_wood" \o "Wand wood) that surrounds a [core](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Wand_core" \o "Wand core) of magical substance. Although the wand cores may come from the same creature, or the wood may come from the same tree, no two existing wands are exactly alike. The study of the history and the magical properties of wands is called [wandlore](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Wandlore" \o "Wandlore).

Applewood wands are not made in great numbers. They are powerful and best suited to an owner of high aims and ideals, as this wood mixes poorly with [Dark magic](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Dark_Arts" \o "Dark Arts).

Broomsticks, also known as brooms, are one of the means employed by wizards and witches to transport themselves between locations. Their use in [Great Britain](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Great_Britain)and [Ireland](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Ireland) is [regulated](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Broomstick_regulations" \o "Broomstick regulations) by the [Ministry of Magic](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/British_Ministry_of_Magic" \o "British Ministry of Magic)'s [Broom Regulatory Control](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Department_of_Magical_Transport" \l "Broom_Regulatory_Control" \o "Department of Magical Transport).

The earliest recorded use of the broomstick was in [962](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/First_millennium_A.D.) in a German illustrated manuscript. Only [wizards and witches](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Wizardkind" \o "Wizardkind) appear to use broomsticks in the wizarding world. [House-elves](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/House-elf), for example, use [Apparition](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Apparition). Broomsticks appear to have a bit of personality of their own, as they are able to respond to the simplest of commands, such as "Up!".

The Air Wave Gold was a [racing broom](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Broomstick" \o "Broomstick), apparently manufactured in the [1990s](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/1990s). In [1996](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/1996), the [Seeker Weekly](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Seeker_Weekly" \o "Seeker Weekly) magazine compared the Air Wave Gold to the [Turbo XXX](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Turbo_XXX)to see which one was better

The Australian Flyabout 50 was a world-class [racing broom](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Broomstick" \o "Broomstick), produced in [Australia](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Australia" \o "Australia). The [Australian National Quidditch team](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Australian_National_Quidditch_team" \o "Australian National Quidditch team) rode on Australian Flyabout 50s during the [422nd Quidditch World Cup](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/1994_Quidditch_World_Cup) matches, in [1994](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/1994)

The Nimbus 2000 was produced by the [Nimbus Racing Broom Company](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Nimbus_Racing_Broom_Company) as part of their successful line of racing brooms. At the time of it's release in [1991](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/1991), it was the fastest [broomstick](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Broomstick" \o "Broomstick) in production. The Nimbus 2000 easily outperformed its competitors on the [Quidditch pitch](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Quidditch_pitch" \o "Quidditch pitch) until it was replaced as the top broomstick by the [Nimbus 2001](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Nimbus_2001).

The Nimbus 2001 was produced by the [Nimbus Racing Broom Company](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Nimbus_Racing_Broom_Company) as part of their successful line of racing [brooms](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Broomstick" \o "Broomstick). Released in August, [1992](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/1992), it was faster than its predecessor, the [Nimbus 2000](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Nimbus_2000). It officially became the fastest broom in existence, until the launch of the [Firebolt](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Firebolt" \o "Firebolt) in [1993](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/1993). The broom itself is black and silver with revolving stirrups. Despite the [Firebolt](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Firebolt" \o "Firebolt) being faster, the Nimbus 2001 is still used by the majority of Quidditch teams across the globe.

There are a variety of classes taught at [Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Hogwarts_School_of_Witchcraft_and_Wizardry" \o "Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry). These include both the core curriculum and the electives, available from [third year](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Third_year" \o "Third year)forward. In the [fifth year](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Fifth_year" \o "Fifth year), students take the [Ordinary Wizarding Level](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Ordinary_Wizarding_Level" \o "Ordinary Wizarding Level) (O.W.L.) exams to determine whether they can achieve a score high enough to continue to [N.E.W.T.](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Nastily_Exhausting_Wizarding_Test)-level (Nastily Exhausting Wizarding Test) for the class in the remaining two years. Some classes, including the core classes, may be dropped in [sixth year](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Sixth_year" \o "Sixth year). Specialised classes such as [Alchemy](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Alchemy" \o "Alchemy) become available in sixth year provided there is sufficient demand.

Even though students cannot apply for [Time-Turners](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Time-Turner) to take more classes than are able to fit in the timetables, a student's head of house may suggest a Time-Turner to an individual on very rare occasions. All students do, however, have a choice to drop a course if they become a burden (aside from the essential classes).

Astronomy is a core class and subject taught at [Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Hogwarts_School_of_Witchcraft_and_Wizardry" \o "Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry). Astronomy is a branch of magic that studies stars and the movement of planets. It is a subject where the use of practical magic during lessons was not necessary.

Uagadou students are known to be skilled in Astronomy, implying the teaching that is provided at Uagadou is excellent.

Charms is a core class and subject taught at [Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Hogwarts_School_of_Witchcraft_and_Wizardry" \o "Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry) and [Ilvermorny School of Witchcraft and Wizardry](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Ilvermorny_School_of_Witchcraft_and_Wizardry" \o "Ilvermorny School of Witchcraft and Wizardry). Unsurprisingly, it specialises in the teaching of [charms](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Charm" \o "Charm). Even though mastering the science of charmwork is clearly essential to performing the greater part of [magic](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Magic" \o "Magic), charmwork is seen as a "softer option" by some such as [Augusta Longbottom](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Augusta_Longbottom) who, incidentally, failed her Charms [O.W.L.](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Ordinary_Wizarding_Level)

Professor [Filius Flitwick](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Filius_Flitwick" \o "Filius Flitwick) taught Charms for many years. It was rumoured that his expertise with charmwork made him a duelling champion.

Dark Arts was a class taught at several wizarding schools. [Unforgivable Curses](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Unforgivable_Curses" \o "Unforgivable Curses)and numerous other forms of [Dark magic](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Dark_Arts" \o "Dark Arts) were taught in this class. It is possible that students were used as victims as a form of punishment.

Defence Against the Dark Arts (sometimes written as DADA) is a subject taught at [Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Hogwarts_School_of_Witchcraft_and_Wizardry" \o "Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry) and [Ilvermorny School of Witchcraft and Wizardry](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Ilvermorny_School_of_Witchcraft_and_Wizardry" \o "Ilvermorny School of Witchcraft and Wizardry)[[1]](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Defence_Against_the_Dark_Arts#cite_note-Pottermore-0). In this class students learn how to [magically](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Magic" \o "Magic) defend themselves against [Dark Creatures](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Dark_Arts" \o "Dark Arts), the [Dark Arts](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Dark_Arts" \o "Dark Arts), and other dark [charms](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Charm" \o "Charm). Offensive magic is also taught in this class, such as how to [duel](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Duelling), which requires the use of both offensive and defensive magic.

The subject is core class at Hogwarts. The position of Defence Against the Dark Arts professor here was once rumoured to be [jinxed](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Jinx_on_the_post_of_Defence_Against_the_Dark_Arts_teacher" \o "Jinx on the post of Defence Against the Dark Arts teacher), as no teacher could hold the post for more than a year. [Tom Marvolo Riddle](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Tom_Riddle) jinxed the position because Dumbledore did not give him the job when he applied for it.[[3]](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Defence_Against_the_Dark_Arts#cite_note-:0-2) The fact that no teacher has lasted longer then year meant that the subject has had numerous Professors.

Ilvermorny began teaching the subject in the [17th century](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/17th_century). Also [Harry Potter](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Harry_Potter)would occasionally deliver Defence Against the Dark Arts lectures at Hogwarts.

Flying, also known as Broom Flight Class,[[1]](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Flying_(class)#cite_note-0) is a subject taught at [Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Hogwarts_School_of_Witchcraft_and_Wizardry" \o "Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry). It is taught by [Madam Hooch](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Rolanda_Hooch" \o "Rolanda Hooch) to first-years only. The subject teaches students how to fly [broomsticks](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Broomstick" \o "Broomstick). In some lessons, the use of [enchanted rings](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Enchanted_ring" \o "Enchanted ring) was used to guide flight

Herbology is the study of [magical](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Magic" \o "Magic) and mundane plants and fungi, making it the wizarding equivalent to [botany](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Botany" \o "wikipedia:Botany). Herbology is a core class and subject taught at [Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Hogwarts_School_of_Witchcraft_and_Wizardry" \o "Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry) and [Castelobruxo](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Castelobruxo" \o "Castelobruxo) in which students learn to care for and utilise plants, learn about their magical properties and what they are used for. Many plants provide ingredients for [potions](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Potion) and medicine, while others have magical effects of their own right.

[Herbert Beery](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Herbert_Beery) was the professor of this subject at Hogwarts for many years prior [1955](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/1955). After he retired, [Pomona Sprout](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Pomona_Sprout" \o "Pomona Sprout) took over the post prior to [1991](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/1991), and later [Neville Longbottom](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Neville_Longbottom) by [2017](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/2017)

Muggle Studies is an elective class and part of the non-magical studies curriculum at [Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Hogwarts_School_of_Witchcraft_and_Wizardry" \o "Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry). It is exactly what the name implies — the study of the daily lives of [Muggles](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Muggle" \o "Muggle) and how they cope with [electricity](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Electricity" \o "Electricity), technology and science, and not [magic](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Magic" \o "Magic).

The subject was made compulsory in [1997](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/1997) by [Lord Voldemort](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Tom_Riddle), and instead of facts being taught regarding muggles the class was used to spread prejudice and lies.

Potions is a core class and subject taught at [Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Hogwarts_School_of_Witchcraft_and_Wizardry" \o "Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry) and [Ilvermorny School of Witchcraft and Wizardry](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Ilvermorny_School_of_Witchcraft_and_Wizardry" \o "Ilvermorny School of Witchcraft and Wizardry). In this class, students learn the correct way to brew [potions](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Potion). They follow specific recipes and use various magical ingredients to create the potions, starting with simple ones and moving to more advanced ones as they progress in knowledge. A standard potions kit includes plant ingredients such as [Belladonna](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Belladonna" \o "Belladonna) and supplies such as glass phials and weighing scales.

The professor of this subject is referred to as a [Potions Master](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Potions_Master). The [Potions Master](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Potions_Master)at Hogwarts for many years was [Horace Slughorn](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Horace_Slughorn) and later [Severus Snape](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Severus_Snape" \o "Severus Snape). By 2016, Professor Slughorn had retired for a second time, and an unidentified teacher had taken over.

Transfiguration is a core class and subject taught at [Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Hogwarts_School_of_Witchcraft_and_Wizardry" \o "Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry). It teaches the art of changing the form and appearance of an object or a person. This type of magic is commonly referred to as "[Transfiguration](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Transfiguration)" and is considered both complex and dangerous.

There are limits to Transfiguration, which are governed by [Gamp's Law of Elemental Transfiguration](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Gamp%27s_Law_of_Elemental_Transfiguration" \o "Gamp's Law of Elemental Transfiguration). There are also many branches, including [Cross-Species Transfiguration](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Cross-Species_Transfiguration) and [Human Transfiguration](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Human_Transfiguration" \o "Human Transfiguration). This type of magic is regarded as "very hard work" and is "more scientific" than [Charmswork](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Charm" \o "Charm). One has to get it exactly right for the transfiguration to be successful.

The professor of this subject for many years was [Albus Dumbledore](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Albus_Dumbledore" \o "Albus Dumbledore) and later [Minerva McGonagall](http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Minerva_McGonagall" \o "Minerva McGonagall). It is unknown who the teacher was before Professor Dumbledore and who took over when Professor McGonagall became headmistress of Hogwarts.