

Solar features

Core
The Sun's energy source, this is where hydrogen fuses into helium.

Twisted field lines
The Sun's rotation twists magnetic field lines deep inside it.

Faculae
These bright areas on the photosphere appear brightest near the limb.

Limb darkening
Near the Sun's limb (edge), light must travel farther through the solar atmosphere. This effect darkens the limb.

Sunspots
Dark spots mark where magnetic fields, amplified inside the Sun, break through the surface.

Prominence
Magnetic fields suspend gas far above the Sun's surface. Prominences sometimes erupt.

Granulation
Gas bubbles whose centers are rising and edges are falling create a mottling effect called granulation.

Photosphere
This is the Sun's visible surface.

Corona
This is the Sun's outer atmosphere, the source of the solar wind.

Solar wind
This thin, ionized gas speeds away from the Sun.

Flare
Flares are sudden releases of energy stored in sunspot magnetic fields. They're often associated with coronal mass ejections.

