

efficiency of a machine:

**Reading Tip** As you read, use the headings to make an outline showing what machines do.

## What Is a Machine?

Shovels and bulldozers are examples of machines. A **machine** is a device with which you can do work in a way that is easier or more effective. You may be used to thinking of machines as complex gadgets that run on electricity, but a machine can be as simple as a shovel or even a ramp.

Perhaps you think that a machine decreases the amount of work that is done. But it doesn't. Moving the pile of mulch, for example, will involve the same amount of work no matter how you do it. Similarly, you have to do the same amount of work to lift a piano whether you lift it by hand or push it up a ramp.

