**accretion disk**
gas from the companion star must lose angular momentum before reaching the compact object; hence the gas forms a disk. When certain conditions are met within the disk, the gas spirals inward and is accreted by the compact object.

**accretion stream**
gas from the companion star travels in a ballistic trajectory, forming a narrow stream of material.

**compact object**
also know as primary star, this is either a black hole or a neutron star

**companion star**
also known as secondary star, this is the star orbiting the compact object (primary star)

**corona**
a region of very hot (100 million degrees Celsius) cloud of plasma surrounding the compact object

**hot spot**
the region where the accretion stream hits the edge of the accretion disk

**jet**
a highly collimated stream of plasma originating very close to the compact object