

Kinetic Energy

Energy is the ability to do work

It exists in many forms such as heat, light, sound, nuclear, chemical

All forms fall into two basic categories:

1. Energy associated with motion called kinetic energy
2. Energy associated with position called potential energy

Kinetic energy, measured in J, depends on an object's mass and speed according to:

$$E_k = \frac{1}{2} m v^2$$

Example: A 60.0 kg student is running at a uniform speed of 5.70 m/s. What is the kinetic energy of the student?

$$\begin{aligned} E_k &= \frac{1}{2} m v^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (60 \text{ kg}) \cdot \left(\frac{5.70 \text{ m}}{\text{s}} \right)^2 = \boxed{975 \text{ J}} \end{aligned}$$

Example: The kinetic energy of a 2.1 kg rotten tomato is $1.00 \times 10^3 \text{ J}$. How fast is it moving?

$$\begin{aligned} E_k &= \frac{1}{2} m v^2 \\ v^2 &= \frac{2 E_k}{m} \\ v &= \sqrt{\frac{2 E_k}{m}} = \sqrt{\frac{2(1000 \text{ J})}{2.1 \text{ kg}}} = \boxed{31 \text{ m/s}} \end{aligned}$$

Work-Energy Theorem: When a net force acts on an object, the object... accelerates!

In other words, the force does work on the object and the object's kinetic energy changes.

$$\begin{aligned} W &= \Delta E_k \\ &= E_{kf} - E_{ki} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} m v_f^2 - \frac{1}{2} m v_i^2 = \frac{1}{2} m (v_f^2 - v_i^2) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, the total work done on an object by a net force is equal to the change in its kinetic energy.

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Example: A sprinter exerts a net force of 260 N over a distance of 35 m. What is his change in kinetic energy?

$$\begin{aligned} W &= \Delta E_k \text{ so } \Delta E_k = W \\ &= F \Delta d \\ &= 260 \text{ N} \cdot 35 \text{ m} \\ &= \boxed{9100 \text{ J}} \end{aligned}$$

Example: How much work must be done to accelerate a 1200 kg truck from 13 to 28 m/s?

$$\begin{aligned} W &= \Delta E_k \\ &= E_{kf} - E_{ki} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} m v_f^2 - \frac{1}{2} m v_i^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} m (v_f^2 - v_i^2) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (1200 \text{ kg}) \left(28 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}^2 - 13 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}}^2 \right) \\ &= 369,000 \text{ J} \\ &= \boxed{3.7 \times 10^5 \text{ J}} \end{aligned}$$

Example: A student pushes a 25 kg crate which is initially at rest with a force of 160 N over a distance of 15 m. If there is 75 N of friction, what is the final speed of the crate?

Given: $m = 25 \text{ kg}$

$$v_i = 0$$

$$F_a = 160 \text{ N}$$

$$\Delta d = 15 \text{ m}$$

$$F_f = 75 \text{ N}$$

$$\begin{aligned} F_{\text{net}} &= F_a - F_f \\ &= 160 \text{ N} - 75 \text{ N} \\ &= 85 \text{ N} \end{aligned}$$

Need: v_f

$$W = \Delta E_k$$
$$F_{\text{net}} \cdot \Delta d = E_{kf} - E_{ki} \quad \leftarrow v_i = 0$$

$$F_{\text{net}} \cdot \Delta d = E_{kf}$$

$$F_{\text{net}} \Delta d = \frac{1}{2} m v_f^2$$

$$v_f^2 = \frac{2 F_{\text{net}} \Delta d}{m}$$

$$v = \sqrt{\frac{2(85 \text{ N}) \cdot 15 \text{ m}}{25 \text{ kg}}} = 10 = \boxed{1.0 \times 10^1 \text{ m/s}}$$