

Kinetic and Potential Energy

Determine whether the objects in the following problems have kinetic or potential energy. Then choose the correct formula to use:

$$KE = \frac{1}{2} mv^2$$

$$PE = mass \times gravitational\ acceleration \left(-9.81 \frac{m}{s^2}\right) \times height \quad \text{OR} \quad PE = Weight \times Height$$

$$Energy = J$$

$$Weight = N$$

$$Mass = kg$$

$$Velocity = \frac{m}{s}$$

$$Gravitational\ acceleration = \left(-9.81 \frac{m}{s^2}\right)$$

- 1.) You serve a volleyball with a mass of 2.1 kg. The ball leaves your hand with a speed of $30 \frac{m}{s}$. The ball has kinetic energy. Calculate it.

$$\text{Answer - } E_k = \frac{1}{2} mv^2 \quad E_k = \frac{1}{2} (2.1)(+30)^2 \quad E_k = 945 J$$

- 2.) A baby carriage is sitting at the top of a hill that is 21 m high. The carriage with the baby weighs 12 N. The carriage has Potential energy. Calculate it.

$$\text{Answer - } E_p = mgh \quad E_p = \left(\frac{12}{9.81}\right)(-9.81)(21) \quad E_p = 252 J$$

- 3.) A car is traveling with a velocity of $40 \frac{m}{s}$ and has a mass of 1120 kg. The car has kinetic energy. Calculate it.

$$\text{Answer - } E_k = \frac{1}{2} mv^2 \quad E_k = \frac{1}{2} (1120)(+40)^2 \quad E_k = 896\,000 J$$

- 4.) A cinder block is sitting on a platform 20. m high. It weighs 79 N. The block has Potential energy. Calculate it.

$$\text{Answer - } E_p = mgh \quad E_p = \left(\frac{79}{9.81}\right)(-9.81)(20) \quad E_p = 1\,580 J$$

- 5.) There is a bell at the top of a tower that is 45 m high. The bell weighs 190 N. The bell has Potential energy. Calculate it.

$$\text{Answer - } E_p = mgh \quad E_p = \left(\frac{190}{9.81}\right)(-9.81)(45) \quad E_p = 8\,550 J$$

6.) A roller coaster is at the top of a 72 m hill and weighs 966 N. The coaster (at this moment) has Potential energy. Calculate it.

Answer - $E_p = mgh$ $E_p = \left(\frac{966}{9.81}\right)(-9.81)(72)$ $E_p = 69\,552\text{ J}$

7.) What is the kinetic energy of a 3.0 kg ball that is rolling at $2.0 \frac{m}{s}$?

Answer - $E_k = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$ $E_k = \frac{1}{2}(3.0)(+2.0)^2$ $E_k = 6.0\text{ J}$

8.) Two objects were lifted by a machine. One object had a mass of 2.0 kg, and was lifted at a speed of $+2.0 \frac{m}{s}$. The other had a mass of 4.0 kg and was lifted at a speed of $+3.0 \frac{m}{s}$.

a. Which object had more kinetic energy while it was being lifted?

Answer - $E_k = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$ $E_k = \frac{1}{2}(2.0)(2.0)^2$ $E_k = 4.0\text{ J}$

Answer - $E_k = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$ $E_k = \frac{1}{2}(4.0)(3.0)^2$ $E_k = 18\text{ J} \leftarrow \text{More}$

b. Which object had more potential energy when it was lifted to a distance of 10. m? Show your calculation.

Answer - $E_p = mgh$ $E_p = (2.0)(-9.81)(10.)$ $E_p = 192.20\text{ J}$

$E_p = mgh$ $E_p = (4.0)(-9.81)(10.)$ $E_p = 392.40\text{ J}$

9.) A 3.0 kg briefcase is dropped. If this briefcase reaches the floor at a speed of $3.2 \frac{m}{s}$, from what height was it dropped?

Answer - $E_k = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$ $E_k = \frac{1}{2}(3.0)(3.2)^2$ $E_k = 30.72\text{ J}$

$E_k = E_p'$ $30.72 = (3.0)(-9.81)h$ $h = 1.04\text{ m}$

10.) A water balloon (0.250 kg) was dropped from the edge of a 8.0 m cliff. How fast was it moving as it hit the ground?

Answer - $E_p = mgh$ $E_p = (0.250)(-9.81)(8.0)$ $E_p = 19.63\text{ J}$

$E_p = E_k'$ $19.62 = (0.5)(0.250)v^2$ $v = 12.53 \frac{m}{s}$

