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## Potential Energy

## Potential Energy is energy of position.

An object gets potential energy from height, mass and gravity. An object with potential energy has the potential to do work. This potential is only released if the object falls. The energy is then transformed into energy of motion or transformed into work.


| $\begin{array}{c}\text { Ex: } \\ \text { how much potential energy does a } 4 \mathrm{~kg} \text { object } \\ \text { have that is } 5 \text { meters off the ground? }\end{array}$ |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{m}=4 \mathrm{~kg}$ | $\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{p}}=\mathrm{mgh}$ |
| $\mathrm{h}=5 \mathrm{~m}$ |  |
| $\mathrm{~g}=10 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{s}^{2}$ | $\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{p}}=(4 \mathrm{~kg})\left(10 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{s}^{2}\right)(5 \mathrm{~m})$ |
| $\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{p}}=?$ |  |\(\left.\quad \begin{array}{c}\left(40 \mathrm{kgm} / \mathrm{s}^{2}\right)(5 \mathrm{~m}) <br>

=200 \mathrm{Joules}\end{array}\right]\)

Potential energy helps us generate electricity in hydroelectric dams. When the water falls, gravity helps turn energy of height to electrical energy.


## Kinetic Energy is energy of motion.

An object gets kinetic energy from its mass and velocity. An object with kinetic energy has energy stored in motion. When the object slows down the energy is released into potential energy (if going up) or some other kind of energy (like heat [thermal energy] in the brakes of car).



| Ex: How much kinetic energy does <br> a 10 kg object traveling $3 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{s} ?$ |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| $\mathrm{~m}=10 \mathrm{~kg}$ |  |
| $\mathrm{v}=3 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{s}$ | $\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{k}}=1 / 2 \mathrm{mv}^{2}$ |
| $\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{k}}=?$ |  |$\quad$| $\mathrm{E}_{\mathrm{k}}=1 / 2(10 \mathrm{~kg})(3 \mathrm{~m} / \mathrm{s})^{2}$ |
| ---: |
| $=(5 \mathrm{~kg})\left(9 \mathrm{~m}^{2} / \mathrm{s}^{2}\right)$ |
| $=45 \mathrm{Joules}$ |



Kinetic energy helps you bike up a hill. The energy of motion helps you overcome gravity. The faster you are moving, the easier it is to get up a hill.

Name: $\qquad$
Period: $\qquad$


