

Work-Energy Calculations

For the following questions, begin with the work-energy equation, cancel terms, substitute and solve.

Work-energy equation: $KE_i + PE_i + W = KE_f + PE_f$

1. A 60.0 kg sky diver is at a height of 400. m traveling at a speed of 45.0 m/s. Determine the speed of the diver when at a height of 275 m. (ignore air resistance)

① $V_i = 45 \text{ m/s}$
 $h_i = 400 \text{ m}$
 ② $V_i = ?$
 $h_f = 275 \text{ m}$
 $m = 60 \text{ kg}$

$$KE_i + PE_i + W = KE_f + PE_f$$

$$\frac{1}{2}mv_i^2 + mgh_i = \frac{1}{2}mV_f^2 + mgh_f$$

$$\frac{1}{2}(60 \text{ kg})(45 \text{ m/s})^2 + (60 \text{ kg})(9.81 \text{ m/s}^2)(400 \text{ m}) = \frac{1}{2}(60 \text{ kg})V_f^2 + (60 \text{ kg})(9.81 \text{ m/s}^2)(275 \text{ m})$$

$$V_f = 66.9 \text{ m/s}$$

2. A box with a mass m is sliding across a frictionless surface at a speed of 10.0 m/s at a height of 1.75 m and approaches a slope. Determine the speed at the bottom of the slope.

① $M = m$
 $V_i = 10 \text{ m/s}$
 $h_i = 1.75 \text{ m}$
 $h_f = 0 \text{ m}$
 $V_f = ?$

$$KE_i + PE_i + W = KE_f + PE_f$$

$$\frac{1}{2}mv_i^2 + mgh_i = \frac{1}{2}mV_f^2$$

$$\frac{1}{2}(10.0 \text{ m/s})^2 + (9.81 \text{ m/s}^2)(1.75 \text{ m}) = \frac{1}{2}V_f^2 \rightarrow V_f = 11.6 \text{ m/s}$$

3. A 1,200 kg car is moving along a level road with a speed of 27.0 m/s. The driver takes the foot of the gas pedal and the car experiences a drag force of 900. N over a distance of 90.0 m. Determine the final speed of the car after traveling this distance.

① $m = 1200 \text{ kg}$
 $d = 90 \text{ m}$
 $V_i = 27 \text{ m/s}$
 $F = 900 \text{ N}$
 $V_f = ?$

$$KE_i + PE_i + W = KE_f + PE_f$$

$$\frac{1}{2}mv_i^2 + Fd = \frac{1}{2}mV_f^2$$

$$\frac{1}{2}(1200 \text{ kg})(27 \text{ m/s})^2 + (900 \text{ N})(90 \text{ m}) = \frac{1}{2}(1200 \text{ kg})V_f^2 \rightarrow V_f = 29.4 \text{ m/s}$$

4. A 55.0 kg sky diver drops out of a plane from a height of 3,500 m. As the diver falls he experiences an average drag force of 500 N over a distance of 2,000 m. Determine the speed of the diver when at a height of 1,500 m.

① $m = 55 \text{ kg}$
 $h_i = 3500 \text{ m}$
 $V_i = 0$
 $F = 500 \text{ N}$
 $d = 2000 \text{ m}$
 ② $h_f = 1500 \text{ m}$
 $V_f = ?$

$$KE_i + PE_i + W = KE_f + PE_f$$

$$mgh_i - Fd = \frac{1}{2}mV_f^2 + mgh_f$$

$$(55 \text{ kg})(9.81 \text{ m/s}^2)(3500 \text{ m}) - (500 \text{ N})(2000 \text{ m}) = \frac{1}{2}(55 \text{ kg})V_f^2 + (55 \text{ kg})(9.81 \text{ m/s}^2)(1500 \text{ m})$$

$$V_f = 53.6 \text{ m/s}$$