IN THIS CHAPTER, you will develop a better understanding of energy and its conservation.
How do interactions affect energy?

We continue our investigation of energy by allowing interactions to be part of the system, rather than external forces. You will learn that interactions can store energy within the system. Further, this interaction energy can be transformed—via the interaction forces—into kinetic energy.
What is potential energy?
Interaction energy is usually called potential energy. There are many kinds of potential energy, each associated with position.

- Gravitational potential energy changes with height.
- Elastic potential energy changes with stretching.

« LOOKING BACK  Section 9.1 Energy overview
When is energy conserved?

- If a system is isolated, its total energy is conserved.
- If a system both is isolated and has no dissipative forces, its mechanical energy, $K + U$, is conserved.

Energy bar charts are a tool for visualizing energy conservation.
What is an energy diagram?

An energy diagram is a graphical representation of how the energy of a particle changes as it moves. Turning points occur where the total energy line crosses the potential-energy curve. And potential-energy minima are points of stable equilibrium.
How is force related to potential energy?

Only certain types of forces, called conservative forces, are associated with a potential energy. For these forces,

- The work done changes the potential energy by $\Delta U = -W$.
- Force is the negative of the slope of the potential-energy curve.

$F_s = -\text{slope}$
Where are we now in our study of energy?

Energy is a big topic, not one that can be presented in a single chapter. Chapters 9 and 10 are primarily about mechanical energy and the mechanical transfer of energy via work. And we’ve touched on thermal energy because it’s unavoidable in realistic mechanical systems with friction. These are related by the energy principle:

\[ \Delta E_{\text{sys}} = \Delta K + \Delta U + \Delta E_{\text{th}} = W_{\text{ext}} \]

Part V of this book, Thermodynamics, will expand our energy ideas to include heat and a deeper understanding of thermal energy. Then we’ll add another form of energy—electric energy—in Part VI.
Chapter 10 Reading Questions
A particular interaction force does work $W_{\text{int}}$ inside a system. The potential energy of the interaction is $U$. Which equation relates $U$ and $W_{\text{int}}$?

A. $U = W_{\text{int}}$
B. $\Delta U = W_{\text{int}}$
C. $U = -W_{\text{int}}$
D. $\Delta U = -W_{\text{int}}$
A particular interaction force does work $W_{\text{int}}$ inside a system. The potential energy of the interaction is $U$. Which equation relates $U$ and $W_{\text{int}}$?

A. $U = W_{\text{int}}$
B. $\Delta U = W_{\text{int}}$
C. $U = -W_{\text{int}}$
D. $\Delta U = -W_{\text{int}}$
Gravitational potential energy is

A. The area under a gravity force-versus-time graph.
B. The gravitation constant times mass-squared divided by distance-squared.
C. Mass times the acceleration due to gravity times vertical position.
D. \( \frac{1}{2} \) mass times speed-squared.
E. Velocity per unit mass.
Gravitational potential energy is

A. The area under a gravity force-versus-time graph.
B. The gravitation constant times mass-squared divided by distance-squared.
C. **Mass times the acceleration due to gravity times vertical position.**
D. ½ mass times speed-squared.
E. Velocity per unit mass.
A method for keeping track of transformations between kinetic energy and gravitational potential energy, introduced in this chapter, is

A. Credit-debit tables.
B. Kinetic energy-versus-time graphs.
C. Energy bar charts.
D. Energy conservation pools.
E. Energy spreadsheets.
A method for keeping track of transformations between kinetic energy and gravitational potential energy, introduced in this chapter, is

A. Credit-debit tables.
B. Kinetic energy-versus-time graphs.
C. Energy bar charts.  
D. Energy conservation pools.
E. Energy spreadsheets.

C. Energy bar charts.
Mechanical energy is

A. The energy due to internal moving parts.
B. The energy of motion.
C. The energy of position.
D. The sum of kinetic energy plus potential energy.
E. The sum of kinetic, potential, thermal, and elastic energy.
Mechanical energy is

A. The energy due to internal moving parts.
B. The energy of motion.
C. The energy of position.
D. The sum of kinetic energy plus potential energy.
E. The sum of kinetic, potential, thermal, and elastic energy.

✅ D. The sum of kinetic energy plus potential energy.
For conservative forces, Force can be found as being the negative of the derivative of

A. Impulse.
B. Kinetic energy.
C. Momentum.
D. Potential energy.
E. Work.
For conservative forces, Force can be found as being the negative of the derivative of

A. Impulse.
B. Kinetic energy.
C. Momentum.
D. **Potential energy.**
E. Work.
Chapter 10 Content, Examples, and QuickCheck Questions
Potential Energy

Consider two particles A and B that interact with each other and nothing else.

There are two ways to define a system.

System 1 consists only of the two particles, the forces are external, and the work done by the two forces change the system’s kinetic energy.

System 2 includes the A–B interaction as part of the system.
Potential Energy

System 2 includes the interaction within the system.

Since $W_{ext} = 0$, we must define an energy associated with the interaction, called the potential energy, $U$.

When internal forces in the system do work, this changes the potential energy.
Potential Energy

- Consider two particles A and B that interact with each other and nothing else.
- If we define the system to include the interaction between the particles, then as these forces do work, the potential energy changes by

\[ \Delta U = -(W_A + W_B) = -W_{\text{int}} \]

where \( W_{\text{int}} \) is the total work done inside the system by the interaction forces.
- The system’s kinetic energy can increase if its potential energy decreases by the same amount.
- In effect, the interaction stores energy inside the system with the potential to be converted to kinetic energy hence the name potential energy.
Gravitational Potential Energy

- The figure shows a ball of mass $m$ moving upward from an initial vertical position $y_i$ to a final vertical position $y_f$.
- Let’s define the system to be ball+earth, including their gravitational interaction.
- This introduces an energy of interaction, the gravitational potential energy, $U_G$, which changes by

$$\Delta U_G = -(W_B + W_E)$$

where $W_B$ is the work gravity does on the ball and $W_E$ is the work gravity does on the earth.
- $W_E$ is practically zero since the Earth has almost no displacement as the ball moves.
- The force of gravity on the ball is $(F_G)_y = -mg$.
- So, as the ball moves up a distance $\Delta y$, the gravitational potential energy changes by

\[ \Delta U_G = -W_B = mg \Delta y \]
Define **gravitational potential energy** as an energy of position:

\[ U_G = mgy \]  
(gravitational potential energy)

The sum \( K + U_G \) is not changed when an object is in free fall. Its initial and final values are equal:

\[ K_f + U_{Gf} = K_i + U_{Gi} \]
EXAMPLE 10.1 Launching a pebble

Rafael uses a slingshot to shoot a 25 g pebble straight up at 17 m/s. How high does the pebble go?

MODEL Let the system consist of both the earth and the pebble, which we model as a particle. Assume that air resistance is negligible. There are no external forces to do work, but the system does have gravitational potential energy.
Example 10.1 Launching a Pebble

**Example 10.1** Launching a pebble

**Visualize Figure 10.3** is a before-and-after pictorial representation. The before-and-after representation will continue to be our primary visualization tool.

System

After:
- $y_1$
- $v_1 = 0 \text{ m/s}$

Find: $y_1$

Before:
- $y_0 = 0 \text{ m}$
- $v_0 = 17 \text{ m/s}$
- $m = 0.025 \text{ kg}$
Example 10.1 Launching a Pebble

SOLVE The energy principle for the pebble + earth system is

\[ \Delta E_{\text{sys}} = \Delta K + \Delta U_G = W_{\text{ext}} = 0 \]

That is, the system energy does not change at all. Instead, kinetic energy is transformed into potential energy without loss inside the system. In principle, the kinetic energy is that of the ball plus the kinetic energy of the earth. But as we just noted, the enormous mass difference means that the earth is effectively at rest while the pebble does all the moving, so the only kinetic energy we need to consider is that of the pebble. Thus we have

\[ 0 = \Delta K + \Delta U_G = \left( \frac{1}{2}mv_1^2 - \frac{1}{2}mv_0^2 \right) + (mg_y_1 - mg_y_0) \]
**EXAMPLE 10.1** Launching a pebble

**SOLVE** We know that \( v_1 = 0 \) m/s and we chose a coordinate system in which \( y_0 = 0 \) m, so we’re left with

\[
y_1 = \frac{v_0^2}{2g} = \frac{(17 \text{ m/s})^2}{2(9.80 \text{ m/s}^2)} = 15 \text{ m}
\]

The answer did not depend on the pebble’s mass, which is not surprising after our earlier practice with free-fall problems.

**ASSESS** A height of 15 m (about 45 ft) seems reasonable for a slingshot.
Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the gravitational potential energies of the balls.

A. $1 > 2 = 4 > 3$
B. $1 > 2 > 3 > 4$
C. $3 > 2 > 4 > 1$
D. $3 > 2 = 4 > 1$
Rank in order, from largest to smallest, the gravitational potential energies of the balls.

A. $1 > 2 = 4 > 3$
B. $1 > 2 > 3 > 4$
C. $3 > 2 > 4 > 1$
D. $3 > 2 = 4 > 1$
The Zero of Potential Energy

- Amber and Carlos use coordinate systems with different origins to determine the potential energy of a rock.
- No matter where the rock is, Amber’s value of $U_G$ will be equal to Carlos’s value plus 9.8 J.
- If the rock moves, both will calculate exactly the same value for $\Delta U_G$.
- In problems, only $\Delta U_G$ has physical significance, not the value of $U_G$ itself.
A ball is tossed up into the air.

The simple bar charts below show how the sum of $K + U_G$ remains constant as the pebble rises and then falls.

As it rises, the ball loses kinetic energy and gains potential energy.

As it falls, the ball loses potential energy and gains kinetic energy.

The sum $K + U_G$ remains constant.
EXAMPLE 10.2 Dropping a watermelon

A 5.0 kg watermelon is dropped from a third-story balcony, 11 m above the street. Unfortunately, the water department forgot to replace the cover on a manhole, and the watermelon falls into a 3.0-m-deep hole. How fast is the watermelon going when it hits bottom?

MODEL Let the system consist of both the earth and the watermelon, which we model as a particle. Assume that air resistance is negligible. There are no external forces, and the motion is vertical, so the system’s mechanical energy is conserved.
Example 10.2 Dropping a Watermelon

**EXAMPLE 10.2** Dropping a watermelon

**VISUALIZE FIGURE 10.6** shows both a before-and-after pictorial representation and an energy bar chart. Initially the system has gravitational potential energy but no kinetic energy. Potential energy is transformed into kinetic energy as the watermelon falls.

**System**

Before:
- \( y_0 = 11 \text{ m} \)
- \( v_0 = 0 \text{ m/s} \)
- \( m = 5.0 \text{ kg} \)

After:
- \( y_1 = -3.0 \text{ m} \)
- \( v_1 \)

Find: \( v_1 \)

The combined height of the two bars is unchanged.

\[
K_i + U_{Gi} = K_f + U_{Gf}
\]
Example 10.2 Dropping a Watermelon

**Example 10.2** Dropping a watermelon

**Visualize** Our choice of the y-axis origin has placed the zero of potential energy at ground level, so the potential energy is negative when the watermelon reaches the bottom of the hole. Even so, the combined height of the two bars has not changed.

---

**System**

Before:
- \( y_0 = 11 \text{ m} \)
- \( v_0 = 0 \text{ m/s} \)
- \( m = 5.0 \text{ kg} \)

After:
- \( y_1 = -3.0 \text{ m} \)
- \( v_1 \)

Find: \( v_1 \)

The combined height of the two bars is unchanged.

\[
K_i + U_{Gi} = K_f + U_{Gf}
\]
EXAMPLE 10.2  Dropping a watermelon

**SOLVE** The energy principle for the watermelon + earth system, written as a conservation statement, is

\[ K_i + U_{Gi} = 0 + mgy_0 = K_f + U_{Gf} = \frac{1}{2}mv_i^2 + mg\bar{y}_1 \]

Solving for the impact speed, we find

\[ v_i = \sqrt{2g(y_0 - \bar{y}_1)} \]

\[ = \sqrt{2(9.80 \text{ m/s}^2)(11.0 \text{ m} - (-3.0 \text{ m}))} \]

\[ = 17 \text{ m/s} \]
EXAMPLE 10.2 Dropping a watermelon

ASSESS A speed of $17 \text{ m/s} \approx 35 \text{ mph}$ seems reasonable for the watermelon after falling $\approx 4$ stories. In thinking about this problem, you might be concerned that, once below ground level, potential energy continues being transformed into kinetic energy even though the potential energy is “less than none.” Keep in mind that the actual value of $U$ is not relevant because we can place the zero of potential energy anywhere we wish, so a negative potential energy is just a number with no implication that it’s “less than none.” There’s no “storehouse” of potential energy that might run dry. As long as the interaction acts, potential energy can continue being transformed into kinetic energy.
Gravitational Potential Energy

- The figure shows a particle of mass $m$ moving at an angle while acted on by gravity.
- The work done by gravity is

\[ W_{\text{by grav}} = \mathbf{F}_G \cdot \Delta \mathbf{r} = (F_G)_x(\Delta r_x) + (F_G)_y(\Delta r_y) = 0 + (-mg)(\Delta y) \]

\[ = -mg \Delta y \]

- Because the force of gravity has no $x$-component, the work depends only on the vertical displacement $\Delta y$.
- Consequently, the change in gravitational potential energy depends only on an object’s vertical displacement.
Starting from rest, a marble first rolls down a steeper hill, then down a less steep hill of the same height. For which is it going faster at the bottom?

A. Faster at the bottom of the steeper hill.
B. Faster at the bottom of the less steep hill.
C. Same speed at the bottom of both hills.
D. Can’t say without knowing the mass of the marble.
Starting from rest, a marble first rolls down a steeper hill, then down a less steep hill of the same height. For which is it going faster at the bottom?

A. Faster at the bottom of the steeper hill.
B. Faster at the bottom of the less steep hill.
C. Same speed at the bottom of both hills.  
D. Can’t say without knowing the mass of the marble.

Correct answer: C.
The figure shows an object sliding down a curved, frictionless surface.

The change in gravitational potential energy of the object + earth system depends only on $\Delta y$, the distance the object descends, not on the shape of the curve.

The normal force is always perpendicular to the box’s instantaneous displacement, so it does no work.
A small child slides down the four frictionless slides A–D. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, her speeds at the bottom.

A. \( v_D > v_A > v_B > v_C \)
B. \( v_D > v_A = v_B > v_C \)
C. \( v_C > v_A > v_B > v_D \)
D. \( v_A = v_B = v_C = v_D \)
A small child slides down the four frictionless slides A–D. Rank in order, from largest to smallest, her speeds at the bottom.

A. \( v_D > v_A > v_B > v_C \)

B. \( v_D > v_A = v_B > v_C \)

C. \( v_C > v_A > v_B > v_D \)

D. \( v_A = v_B = v_C = v_D \)

Correct answer: D. \( v_A = v_B = v_C = v_D \)
EXAMPLE 10.3 The speed of a sled

Christine runs forward with her sled at 2.0 m/s. She hops onto the sled at the top of a 5.0-m-high, very slippery slope. What is her speed at the bottom?

MODEL Let the system consist of the earth and the sled, which we model as a particle. Because the slope is “very slippery,” we’ll assume that friction is negligible. The slope exerts a normal force on the sled, but it is always perpendicular to the motion and does not affect the energy.
EXAMPLE 10.3 The Speed of a Sled

VISUALIZE FIGURE 10.9a shows a before-and-after pictorial representation. We are not told the angle of the slope, or even if it is a straight slope, but the change in potential energy depends only on the vertical distance Christine descends and not on the shape of the hill. FIGURE 10.9b is an energy bar chart in which we see an initial kinetic and potential energy being transformed into entirely kinetic energy as Christine goes down the slope.

(a)

Before: \( y_0 = 5.0 \text{ m} \)
\[ v_0 = 2.0 \text{ m/s} \]

After: \( y_1 = 0 \text{ m} \)
\[ v_1 \]

Find: \( v_1 \)

(b)

\[ K_i + U_{gi} = K_f + U_{gf} \]
Example 10.3 The Speed of a Sled

**Example 10.3 The speed of a sled**

**Solve** The energy analysis is just like in Example 10.2; the fact that the object is moving on a curved surface hasn’t changed anything. The energy principle, written as a conservation statement, is

\[ K_i + U_{gi} = \frac{1}{2}mv_0^2 + mgy_0 \]

\[ = K_f + U_{gf} = \frac{1}{2}mv_i^2 + 0 \]

Her speed at the bottom is

\[ v_i = \sqrt{v_0^2 + 2gy_0} \]

\[ = \sqrt{(2.0 \text{ m/s})^2 + 2(9.80 \text{ m/s}^2)(5.0 \text{ m})} \]

\[ = 10 \text{ m/s} \]

**Assess** 10 m/s \( \approx \) 20 mph is fast but believable for a 5 m \( \approx \) 15 ft descent.
Friction increases the thermal energy of the system—defined to include both objects—by $\Delta E_{\text{th}} = f_k \Delta s$.

For a system with both gravitational potential energy and friction, the energy principle becomes

$$K_i + U_{G_i} = K_f + U_{G_f} + \Delta E_{\text{th}}$$

The mechanical energy $K + U_G$ is not conserved if there is friction.

Because $\Delta E_{\text{th}} > 0$ (friction always makes surfaces hotter, never cooler), the final mechanical energy is less than the initial kinetic energy.

Some fraction of the initial kinetic and potential energy is transformed into thermal energy during the motion.
A child is on a playground swing, motionless at the highest point of his arc. What energy transformation takes place as he swings back down to the lowest point of his motion?

A. \( K \rightarrow U_G \)
B. \( U_G \rightarrow K \)
C. \( E_{th} \rightarrow K \)
D. \( U_G \rightarrow E_{th} \)
E. \( K \rightarrow E_{th} \)
A child is on a playground swing, motionless at the highest point of his arc. What energy transformation takes place as he swings back down to the lowest point of his motion?

A. $K \rightarrow U_G$
B. $U_G \rightarrow K$
C. $E_{th} \rightarrow K$
D. $U_G \rightarrow E_{th}$
E. $K \rightarrow E_{th}$

B. $U_G \rightarrow K$
A skier is gliding down a gentle slope at a constant speed. What energy transformation is taking place?

A. $K \rightarrow U_G$
B. $U_G \rightarrow K$
C. $E_{th} \rightarrow K$
D. $U_G \rightarrow E_{th}$
E. $K \rightarrow E_{th}$
A skier is gliding down a gentle slope at a constant speed. What energy transformation is taking place?

A. \[ K \rightarrow U_G \]
B. \[ U_G \rightarrow K \]
C. \[ E_{th} \rightarrow K \]
D. \[ U_G \rightarrow E_{th} \]
E. \[ K \rightarrow E_{th} \]

Correct answer: D. \[ U_G \rightarrow E_{th} \]
Elastic Potential Energy

- The figure shows a spring exerting a force on a block while the block moves on a frictionless, horizontal surface.
- Let’s define the system to be block + spring + wall.
- The spring is the interaction between the block and the wall.
- Because the interaction is inside the system, it has an interaction energy, the elastic potential energy, given by

\[ U_{sp} = \frac{1}{2} k (\Delta s)^2 \]  
(elastic potential energy)

where \( \Delta s \) is the displacement of the spring from its equilibrium length.
A spring-loaded gun shoots a plastic ball with a launch speed of 2.0 m/s. If the spring is compressed twice as far, the ball’s launch speed will be

A. 1.0 m/s
B. 2.0 m/s
C. 2.8 m/s
D. 4.0 m/s
E. 16.0 m/s
A spring-loaded gun shoots a plastic ball with a launch speed of 2.0 m/s. If the spring is compressed twice as far, the ball’s launch speed will be

A. 1.0 m/s
B. 2.0 m/s
C. 2.8 m/s
D. **4.0 m/s**
E. 16.0 m/s

Conservation of energy: \[ \frac{1}{2}mv^2 = \frac{1}{2}k(\Delta x)^2 \]

Double \( \Delta x \rightarrow \) double \( v \)
A spring-loaded gun shoots a plastic ball with a launch speed of 2.0 m/s. If the spring is replaced with a new spring having twice the spring constant (but still compressed the same distance), the ball’s launch speed will be

A. 1.0 m/s  
B. 2.0 m/s  
C. 2.8 m/s  
D. 4.0 m/s  
E. 16.0 m/s
A spring-loaded gun shoots a plastic ball with a launch speed of 2.0 m/s. If the spring is replaced with a new spring having twice the spring constant (but still compressed the same distance), the ball’s launch speed will be

A. 1.0 m/s  
B. 2.0 m/s  
C. 2.8 m/s  
D. 4.0 m/s  
E. 16.0 m/s

Conservation of energy: \[ \frac{1}{2}mv^2 = \frac{1}{2}k(\Delta x)^2 \]

Double \( k \) → increase \( v \) by square root of 2
Including Gravity

- For a system that has gravitational interactions, elastic interactions, and friction, but no external forces that do work, the energy principle is:

\[ K_i + U_{Gi} + U_{Sp_i} = K_f + U_{Gf} + U_{Sp_f} + \Delta E_{th} \]

- This is looking a bit more complex as we have more and more energies to keep track of, but the message is both simple and profound:
  
  For a system that has no other interactions with its environment, the total energy of the system does not change.

- It can be transformed in many ways by the interactions, but the total does not change.
**Law of conservation of energy** The total energy $E_{\text{sys}} = E_{\text{mech}} + E_{\text{th}}$ of an isolated system is a constant. The kinetic, potential, and thermal energy within the system can be transformed into each other, but their sum cannot change. Further, the mechanical energy $E_{\text{mech}} = K + U$ is conserved if the system is both isolated and nondissipative.
The Basic Energy Model

- When a system is isolated, $E_{sys}$, the total energy of the system, is constant.

The system is isolated from the environment.

The system’s total energy $E_{sys}$ is conserved.

Energy can still be transformed within the system.
Energy-conservation problems

**MODEL** Define the system so that there are no external forces or so that any external forces do no work on the system. If there’s friction, bring both surfaces into the system. Model objects as particles and springs as ideal.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a before-and-after pictorial representation and an energy bar chart. A free-body diagram may be needed to visualize forces.

**SOLVE** If the system is both isolated and nondissipative, then the mechanical energy is conserved:

\[ K_i + U_i = K_f + U_f \]

where \( K \) is the total kinetic energy of all moving objects and \( U \) is the total potential energy of all interactions within the system. If there’s friction, then

\[ K_i + U_i = K_f + U_f + \Delta E_{th} \]

where the thermal energy increase due to friction is \( \Delta E_{th} = f_k \Delta s \).

**ASSESS** Check that your result has correct units and significant figures, is reasonable, and answers the question.
EXAMPLE 10.7  The speed of a pendulum

A pendulum is created by attaching one end of a 78-cm-long string to the ceiling and tying a 150 g steel ball to the other end. The ball is pulled back until the string is 60° from vertical, then released. What is the speed of the ball at its lowest point?

MODEL  Let the system consist of the earth and the ball. The tension force, like a normal force, is always perpendicular to the motion and does no work, so this is an isolated system with no friction. Its mechanical energy is conserved.
**Example 10.7 The Speed of a Pendulum**

**Visualize Figure 10.16** shows a before-and-after pictorial representation, where we’ve placed the zero of potential energy at the lowest point of the ball’s swing. Trigonometry is needed to determine the ball’s initial height.

Before:
- \( y_0 = 0.39 \text{ m} \)
- \( v_0 = 0 \text{ m/s} \)
- \( m = 0.15 \text{ kg} \)

\[ y_0 \]

\[ y_1 \]

\[ y_0 \]

\[ y_0 \]

Find: \( v_1 \)

After:
- \( y_1 = 0 \text{ m} \)
- \( v_1 \)

\[ L = 0.78 \text{ m} \]

\[ L \cos 60^\circ \]

\[ L - L \cos 60^\circ = 0.39 \text{ m} \]
Example 10.7 The Speed of a Pendulum

**Example 10.7** The speed of a pendulum

**Solve** Conservation of mechanical energy is

\[ K_i + U_{Gi} = 0 + mgy_0 = K_f + U_{Gi} = \frac{1}{2}mv_1^2 + 0 \]

Thus the ball’s speed at the bottom is

\[ v_1 = \sqrt{2gy_0} = \sqrt{2(9.80 \text{ m/s}^2)(0.39 \text{ m})} = 2.8 \text{ m/s} \]

The speed is exactly the same as if the ball had simply fallen 0.39 m.

**Assess** To solve this problem directly from Newton’s laws of motion requires advanced mathematics because of the complex way the net force changes with angle. But we can solve it in one line with an energy analysis!
QuickCheck 10.8

Three balls are thrown from a cliff with the same speed but at different angles. Which ball has the greatest speed just before it hits the ground?

A. Ball A
B. Ball B
C. Ball C
D. All balls have the same speed.
Three balls are thrown from a cliff with the same speed but at different angles. Which ball has the greatest speed just before it hits the ground?

A. Ball A
B. Ball B
C. Ball C
D. All balls have the same speed.

✓ D. All balls have the same speed.
A hockey puck sliding on smooth ice at 4 m/s comes to a 1-m-high hill. Will it make it to the top of the hill?

A. Yes
B. No
C. Can’t answer without knowing the mass of the puck.
D. Can’t say without knowing the angle of the hill.
A hockey puck sliding on smooth ice at 4 m/s comes to a 1-m-high hill. Will it make it to the top of the hill?

A. Yes

\[ \frac{1}{2}mv^2 = mgy \text{ requires } v^2 = 2gy \approx 20 \text{ m}^2/\text{s}^2 \]

B. No

C. Can’t answer without knowing the mass of the puck.

D. Can’t say without knowing the angle of the hill.
Energy Diagrams

- Potential energy is a function of position.
- Functions of position are easy to represent as graphs.
- A graph showing a system’s potential energy and total energy as a function of position is called an **energy diagram**.
- Shown is the energy diagram of a particle in free fall.
- Gravitational potential energy is a straight line with slope $mg$ and zero y-intercept.
- Total energy is a horizontal line, since mechanical energy is conserved.

$E = K + U_G$

$U_G = mgy$

$K$ and $U_G$ change as the particle moves from $y_1$ to $y_2$, but their sum is always $E$. 
A Four-Frame Movie of a Particle in Free Fall

- Frame 1: $y_a = 0$, $v_a$
- Frame 2: $y_b$, $v_b$
- Frame 3: $v_c = 0$, Turning point
- Frame 4: $y_d$, $v_d$

Energy diagrams:
- Frame 1: $y_a = 0$, $K_a$, $U_Ga$
- Frame 2: $y_b$, $K_b$, $U_Gb$
- Frame 3: $y_c$, $K_c$, $U_Gc$
- Frame 4: $y_d$, $K_d$, $U_Gd$
Energy Diagrams

- Shown is the energy diagram of a mass on a horizontal spring.

- The potential energy (PE) is the parabola:

\[ U_{sp} = \frac{1}{2}k(x - L_0)^2 \]

- The PE curve is determined by the spring constant; you can’t change it.

- You can set the total energy (TE) to any height you wish simply by stretching or compressing the spring to the proper length at the beginning of the motion.
Energy Diagrams

- Shown is a more general energy diagram.
- The particle is released from rest at position $x_1$.
- Since $K$ at $x_1$ is zero, the total energy $TE = U$ at that point.
- The particle speeds up from $x_1$ to $x_2$.
- Then it slows down from $x_2$ to $x_3$.
- The particle reaches maximum speed as it passes $x_4$.
- When the particle reaches $x_5$, it turns around and reverses the motion.
Equilibrium Positions: Stable

- Consider a particle with the total energy $E_2$ shown in the figure.
- The particle can be at rest at $x_2$, but it cannot move away from $x_2$: This is static equilibrium.
- If you disturb the particle, giving it a total energy slightly larger than $E_2$, it will oscillate very close to $x_2$.
- An equilibrium for which small disturbances cause small oscillations is called a point of stable equilibrium.
Equilibrium Positions: Unstable

- Consider a particle with the total energy $E_3$ shown in the figure.
- The particle can be at rest at $x_3$, and it does not move away from $x_3$: This is static equilibrium.
- If you disturb the particle, giving it a total energy slightly larger than $E_3$, it will speed up as it moves away from $x_3$.
- An equilibrium for which small disturbances cause the particle to move away is called a point of unstable equilibrium.
TACTICS BOX 10.1

Interpreting an energy diagram

1. The distance from the axis to the PE curve is the particle’s potential energy. The distance from the PE curve to the TE line is its kinetic energy. These are transformed as the position changes, causing the particle to speed up or slow down, but the sum $K + U$ doesn’t change.

2. A point where the TE line crosses the PE curve is a turning point. The particle reverses direction.

3. The particle cannot be at a point where the PE curve is above the TE line.

4. The PE curve is determined by the properties of the system—mass, spring constant, and the like. You cannot change the PE curve. However, you can raise or lower the TE line simply by changing the initial conditions to give the particle more or less total energy.

5. A minimum in the PE curve is a point of stable equilibrium. A maximum in the PE curve is a point of unstable equilibrium.

Exercises 15–17
EXAMPLE 10.8 Balancing a mass on a spring

A spring of length $L_0$ and spring constant $k$ is standing on one end. A block of mass $m$ is placed on the spring, compressing it. What is the length of the compressed spring?

MODEL Assume an ideal spring obeying Hooke’s law. The block + earth + spring system has both gravitational potential energy $U_G$ and elastic potential energy $U_{sp}$. The block sitting on top of the spring is at a point of stable equilibrium (small disturbances cause the block to oscillate slightly around the equilibrium position), so we can solve this problem by looking at the energy diagram.
Example 10.8 Balancing a Mass on a Spring

**EXAMPLE 10.8** Balancing a mass on a spring

**VISUALIZE FIGURE 10.22a** is a pictorial representation. We’ve used a coordinate system with the origin at ground level, so the displacement of the spring is $y - L_0$. 

(a)
EXAMPLE 10.8  Balancing a mass on a spring

SOLVE  FIGURE 10.22b  shows the two potential energies separately and also shows the total potential energy:

\[ U_{\text{tot}} = U_G + U_{Sp} \]

\[ = mg y + \frac{1}{2} k (y - L_0)^2 \]
EXAMPLE 10.8 Balancing a mass on a spring

**SOLVE** The equilibrium position (the minimum of \( U_{\text{tot}} \)) has shifted from \( L_0 \) to a smaller value of \( y \), closer to the ground. We can find the equilibrium by locating the position of the minimum in the PE curve. You know from calculus that the minimum of a function is at the point where the derivative (or slope) is zero. The derivative of \( U_{\text{tot}} \) is

\[
\frac{dU_{\text{tot}}}{dy} = mg + k(y - L_0)
\]
**EXAMPLE 10.8** Balancing a mass on a spring

**SOLVE** The derivative is zero at the point $y_{eq}$, so we can easily find

$$mg + k(y_{eq} - L_0) = 0$$

$$y_{eq} = L_0 - \frac{mg}{k}$$

The block compresses the spring by the length $mg/k$ from its original length $L_0$, giving it a new equilibrium length $L_0 - mg/k$. 
We can find the potential energy of an interaction by calculating the work the interaction force does inside the system.

Can we reverse this procedure?

That is, if we know a system’s potential energy, can we find the interaction force?

Suppose that an object undergoes a very small displacement $\Delta s$.

During this small displacement, the system’s potential energy changes by

$$\Delta U = -W_{\text{int}} = -F_s \Delta s$$

which we can rewrite as

$$F_s = -\frac{\Delta U}{\Delta s}$$
Finding Force from Potential Energy

- In the limit $\Delta s \to 0$, we find that the force at position $s$ is

  $F_s = \lim_{\Delta s \to 0} \left( - \frac{\Delta U}{\Delta s} \right) = - \frac{dU}{ds}$

- The force on the object is the negative of the derivative of the potential energy with respect to position:

  $F_s = - \frac{dU}{ds} = \text{the negative of the slope of the PE curve at } s$
Figure (a) shows the potential-energy curve for a horizontal spring with $x_{eq} = 0$.

The force on an object attached to the spring is $F_x = -kx$.

Figure (b) shows the corresponding $F$-versus-$x$ graph.

At each point, the value of $F$ is equal to the negative of the slope of the $U$-versus-$x$ graph.

The value of the force is the negative of the slope of the potential energy curve.
Finding Force from Potential Energy

- Figure (a) is a more general potential-energy diagram.
- Figure (b) is the corresponding $F$-versus-$x$ graph.
- Where the slope of $U$ is negative, the force is positive.
- Where the slope of $U$ is positive, the force is negative.
- Where the slope is zero, the force is zero.
A particle with the potential energy shown is moving to the right. It has 1.0 J of kinetic energy at $x = 1.0$ m. In the region $1.0 \text{ m} < x < 2.0 \text{ m}$, the particle is

A. Speeding up.
B. Slowing down.
C. Moving at constant speed.
D. I have no idea.
A particle with the potential energy shown is moving to the right. It has 1.0 J of kinetic energy at $x = 1.0$ m. In the region $1.0$ m $< x < 2.0$ m, the particle is

A. **Speeding up.**
B. **Slowing down.**
C. **Moving at constant speed.**
D. **I have no idea.**
A particle with the potential energy shown is moving to the right. It has 1.0 J of kinetic energy at $x = 1.0$ m. Where is the particle’s turning point?

A. 1.0 m  
B. 2.0 m  
C. 5.0 m  
D. 6.0 m  
E. It doesn’t have a turning point.
QuickCheck 10.11

A particle with the potential energy shown is moving to the right. It has 1.0 J of kinetic energy at $x = 1.0$ m. Where is the particle’s turning point?

A. 1.0 m  
B. 2.0 m  
C. 5.0 m  
D. 6.0 m  
E. It doesn’t have a turning point.

Correct answer: D. 6.0 m
A particle with this potential energy could be in stable equilibrium at \( x = \)

A. 0.0 m  
B. 1.0 m  
C. 2.0 m  
D. Either A or C  
E. Either B or C
A particle with this potential energy could be in stable equilibrium at $x =$

A. 0.0 m
B. 1.0 m
C. 2.0 m
D. Either A or C.
E. Either B or C.
Conservative Forces

- The figure shows a particle that can move from A to B along either path 1 or path 2 while a force $\vec{F}$ is exerted on it.
- If there is a potential energy associated with the force, this is a conservative force.
- The work done by $\vec{F}$ as the particle moves from A to B is independent of the path followed:

$$\Delta U = -W_c(i \rightarrow f)$$
Nonconservative Forces

- If an object slides up and down a slope with friction, then it returns to the same position with less kinetic energy.
- Part of its kinetic energy is transformed into gravitational potential energy as it slides up, but part is transformed into thermal energy that lacks the “potential” to be transformed back into kinetic energy.
- A force for which we cannot define a potential energy is called a **nonconservative force**.
- Friction and drag, which transform mechanical energy into thermal energy, are nonconservative forces, so there is no “friction potential energy.”
- Similarly, forces like tension and thrust are nonconservative.
The Energy Principle Revisited

- The figure shows a system of three objects that interact with each other and are acted on by external forces from the environment.
- In the previous section we found that forces can be conservative, doing work $W_c$, or nonconservative, doing work $W_{nc}$.
- Now let's make a further distinction by dividing the nonconservative forces into dissipative forces and external forces.
- Dissipative forces, like friction and drag, transform mechanical energy into thermal energy.
The Energy Principle Revisited

- With these terms, the energy principle becomes

\[ \Delta K + \Delta U + \Delta E_{th} = \Delta E_{\text{mech}} + \Delta E_{th} = \Delta E_{\text{sys}} = W_{\text{ext}} \]

- An isolated system is a system on which no work is done by external forces.

- Thus the total energy \( E_{\text{sys}} \) of an isolated system is conserved.
EXAMPLE 10.10  Hauling up supplies

A mountain climber uses a rope to drag a bag of supplies up a slope at constant speed. Show the energy transfers and transformations on an energy bar chart.

**MODEL**  Let the system consist of the earth, the bag of supplies, and the slope.

**SOLVE**  The tension in the rope is an external force that does work on the bag of supplies. This is an energy transfer into the system. The bag has kinetic energy, but it moves at a steady speed and so $K$ is not changing. Instead, the energy transfer into the system increases both gravitational potential energy (the bag is gaining height) and thermal energy (the bag and the slope are getting warmer due to friction). The overall process is $W_{ext} \rightarrow U + E_{th}$. This is shown in **FIGURE 10.29**.

\[
K_i + U_i + W_{ext} = K_f + U_f + \Delta E_{th}
\]
How much work is done by the environment in the process represented by the energy bar chart?

A. $-2 \text{ J}$
B. $-1 \text{ J}$
C. $0 \text{ J}$
D. $1 \text{ J}$
E. $2 \text{ J}$
QuickCheck 10.13

How much work is done by the environment in the process represented by the energy bar chart?

A.  $-2 \ J$
B.  $-1 \ J$
C.  $0 \ J$
D.  $1 \ J$
E.  $2 \ J$

The system started with 5 J but ends with 4 J. 1 J must have been transferred from the system to the environment as work.
Chapter 10 Summary Slides
The Energy Principle Revisited

- Energy is *transformed* within the system.
- Energy is *transferred* to and from the system by work $W$.

Two variations of the energy principle are

$$\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = \Delta K + \Delta U + \Delta E_{\text{th}} = W_{\text{ext}}$$

$$K_i + U_i + W_{\text{ext}} = K_f + U_f + \Delta E_{\text{th}}$$
Solving Energy Problems

**MODEL** Define the system.

**VISUALIZE** Draw a before-and-after pictorial representation and an energy bar chart.

**SOLVE** Use the energy principle:

\[ K_i + U_i + W_{ext} = K_f + U_f + \Delta E_{th} \]

**ASSESS** Is the result reasonable?
Law of Conservation of Energy

- **Isolated system:** $W_{\text{ext}} = 0$. The total system energy $E_{\text{sys}} = K + U + E_{\text{th}}$ is conserved. $\Delta E_{\text{sys}} = 0$.
- **Isolated, nondissipative system:** $W_{\text{ext}} = 0$ and $W_{\text{diss}} = 0$. The **mechanical energy** $E_{\text{mech}} = K + U$ is conserved: $K_i + U_i = K_f + U_f$. 
Potential energy, or interaction energy, is energy stored inside a system via interaction forces. The energy is stored in fields.

- Potential energy is associated only with conservative forces for which the work done is independent of the path.
- Work $W_{\text{int}}$ by the interaction forces causes $\Delta U = -W_{\text{int}}$.
- Force $F_s = -dU/ds = -$ (slope of the potential energy curve).
- Potential energy is an energy of the system, not an energy of a specific object.
**Energy diagrams** show the potential-energy curve PE and the total mechanical energy line TE.

- From the axis to the curve is $U$. From the curve to the TE line is $K$.
- **Turning points** occur where the TE line crosses the PE curve.
- Minima and maxima in the PE curve are, respectively, positions of **stable** and **unstable equilibrium**.
**Gravitational potential energy** is an energy of the earth + object system:

\[ U_G = mgy \]

**Elastic potential energy** is an energy of the spring + attached objects system:

\[ U_{sp} = \frac{1}{2} k(\Delta s)^2 \]
Energy bar charts show the energy principle in graphical form.

\[ K_i + U_i + W_{\text{ext}} = K_f + U_f + \Delta E_{\text{th}} \]