

Warm-up:

Collision Conservation

Momentum is always conserved in any collision, as is energy. However, energy is usually transformed into several different types as a result of the collision. In most collisions, a significant amount of the kinetic energy is converted into other forms, and the colliding objects' movements are greatly affected. These are called inelastic collisions. There are some collisions, like the colliding steel balls suspended by strings in a Newton's Cradle, in which kinetic energy is almost conserved. Since so little kinetic energy is lost in each collision, they seem to just go on bouncing. These collisions represent elastic collisions.

Elastic collisions always seem to catch our attention. Because they are so rare, they seem unusual to us. Use a personal experience to describe an elastic collision that you have seen.

• Kinetic Energy: motion!

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

• Potential Energy: stored!

↳ Gravitational Potential Energy:

$$\rightarrow GPE = mgh$$

↳ Elastic Potential Energy: returns to shape

$$\rightarrow EPE = \frac{1}{2}kx^2$$

x = stretch length

k = spring constant depends on elastic material

Question: which item would have a greater elasticity constant, a Car suspension spring or a rubber band?

Practice Problems:

$$KE = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 \quad GPE = mgh \quad EPE = \frac{1}{2}kx^2$$

1) How much energy does a 1,250 kg car have when moving at 60.0 mph?

Conversions: 1 mile = 5,280 ft 3.28 ft = 1 m

2) What is the GPE of a 120 lb diver at a 10 ft diving board?

Conversions: 2.2 lb = 1 kg 3.28 ft = 1 m

3) How much energy is stored in a spring with $k = 275 \text{ N/m}$ and is stretched to 20.0 cm?

Conversions: 100 cm = 1 m

4) What is the Spring constant of a trampoline stretched 0.855 m by a 200 lb person?

Conversions: 2.2 lb = 1.0 kg