

Acceleration Key Terms

On-level Physics

The following are the terms you should be familiar with in order to properly complete this chunk. You are expected to be able to define each as well as apply these terms in any situation during this and subsequent chunks of study.

direction – The distance-independent relationship between two points in space that specifies the location of either with respect to the other. May be indicated by terms such as: north, south, positive, negative, up, or down.

time - the duration of an action or an event.

instantaneous speed - The speed of an object at specific moment.

average speed - The total distance traveled divided by the total time of travel; the average of two instantaneous speeds.

constant speed - A speed that does not change, such as a steady speed; no acceleration.

acceleration - The rate at which an object changes its velocity, meaning there is a change in speed, direction, or both.

freefall - The condition of a falling object which experiences no friction and gravity is the only force acting on the object. A freefalling object always accelerates at the same rate and all objects in freefall accelerate at the same rate as each other. The rate of acceleration is 9.8 m/s^2 downward near the surface of the earth.

gravity - a force field produced by an object's mass, which attracts other masses. Used to define down here on earth.