

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

**energy** - The "something" that enables work to be done. The total energy of a system; mechanical energy consists of all the kinetic and potential energies of the system.

**potential energy** - Stored energy; chemical, electrical, magnetic, mechanical, gravitational, nuclear

**gravitational potential energy** - Energy that an object possesses because of its position relative to another object; although it is only one form, it is often the "potential energy" discussed in physics classrooms.

**kinetic energy** - Energy of motion.

**law of conservation of energy** - States that energy cannot be created or destroyed, but can change forms or be transferred from one object to another.

**work** - Amount of energy required to move an object, or released by the motion of an object, over a certain distance; motion must be in the same direction of the applied force.

**joule** - a unit of energy (and work); a joule is equal to one newton of force times one meter of distance.