

## Escape Velocity Part 1

Escape velocity is the minimum speed needed for a free, non-propelled object to escape from the gravitational influence of a massive body, that is, to achieve an infinite distance from it. Escape velocity is a function of the mass of the body and distance to the center of mass of the body.

**Objective:** Create a function, `string escapeVelocity(string planet)`, that takes a planet as an argument and returns its escape velocity expressed in m/s, km/h and km/s.

In the following table you will find for each planet its mass relative to Earth and its radius relative to Earth:

Planet	Mass	Radius
Mercury	0.0558	0.383
Venus	0.815	0.95
Earth	1	1
Mars	0.107	0.532
Jupiter	318	11.2
Saturn	95.1	9.41
Uranus	14.5	4.06
Neptune	17.2	3.88

Consider:

- Earth mass =  $5.972 \times 10^{24}$  kg
- Earth equatorial radius = 6378 km
- Gravitational Constant  $G = 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \text{ Nm}^2/\text{kg}^2$

**Examples:**

```
escapeVelocity("Earth") → "The escape velocity in m/s is: 11179.98.  
The escape velocity in km/h is: 40247.93. The escape velocity in km/s  
is: 11.18."
```

```
escapeVelocity("Venus") → "The escape velocity in m/s is: 10355.19.  
The escape velocity in km/h is: 37278.68. The escape velocity in km/s  
is: 10.36."
```

escapeVelocity("Mars") → "The escape velocity in m/s is: 5013.92. The escape velocity in km/h is: 18050.11. The escape velocity in km/s is: 5.01."

**Notes:**

- Round to the nearest hundred the escape velocity in m/s. Using the rounded escape velocity in m/s calculate the escape velocity in km/h and round that number to the nearest hundred. Finally, using the rounded escape velocity in m/s, calculate the escape velocity in km/s and round that number to the nearest hundred.
- Pay special attention to units.

## Formula

$$V_{\text{esc}} = \sqrt{\frac{2Gm}{r}}$$

$V_{\text{esc}}$  → Escape Velocity

$G$  → gravitational constant ( $6.67 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^3 \text{ kg}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-2}$ )

$m$  → mass of Earth, moon or any planet

$r$  → radius of Earth, moon or any planet

## Escape Velocity Part 2

When escaping a compound system, such as a moon orbiting a planet or a planet orbiting a sun, a rocket that leaves at escape velocity ( $ve1$ ) for the first (orbiting) body, (e.g. Earth) will not travel to an infinite distance because it needs an even higher speed to escape gravity of the second body (e.g. the Sun). Near the Earth, the rocket's trajectory will appear parabolic, but it will still be gravitationally bound to the second body and will enter an elliptical orbit around that body, with an orbital speed similar to the first body.

To escape the gravity of the second body once it has escaped the first body the rocket will need to be travelling at the escape velocity for the second body ( $ve2$ ) (at the orbital distance of the first body). However, when the rocket escapes the first body it will still have the same orbital speed around the second body that the first body has. So its excess velocity as it escapes the first body will need to be the difference between the orbital velocity and the escape velocity. With a circular orbit, escape velocity is  $\sqrt{2}$  times the orbital speed.

**Objective:** Create a function, `string systemEscapeVelocity(string planet)`, that takes a planet as an argument and returns the escape velocity from the system Planet/Sun expressed in km/s, as well as the ratio between the calculated escape velocity from the system Planet/Sun and the escape velocity from the system Earth/Sun.

**Data:** In the following table you will find for each planet its escape velocity relative to its own gravity and the escape velocity relative to the Sun's gravity (at the corresponding orbital distance of the planet).

Planet	ve1	ve2
Mercury	4.25	67.7
Venus	10.36	49.5
Earth	11.186	42.1
Mars	5.03	34.1
Jupiter	60.20	18.5
Saturn	36.09	13.6
Uranus	21.38	9.6
Neptune	23.56	7.7

Consider:  $k = 0.2929$

**Examples:**

systemEscapeVelocity("Mercury") → "The escape velocity from the system Mercury/Sun is 20.3 km/s. The escape velocity from the system Mercury/Sun is 1.2 times the escape velocity from the system Earth/Sun."

systemEscapeVelocity("Earth") → "The escape velocity from the system Earth/Sun is 16.6 km/s. The escape velocity from the system Earth/Sun is 1.0 times the escape velocity from the system Earth/Sun."

**Notes:** Round to the nearest tenth the escape velocity from the system Planet/Sun. Do not round the escape velocity from the system Earth/Sun to calculate the ratio between escape velocities, but round the ratio to the nearest tenth.