Key Terms

dynamics the study of how forces affect the motion of objects and systems

external force a force acting on an object or system that originates outside of the object or system

force a push or pull on an object with a specific magnitude and direction; can be represented by vectors; can be expressed as a multiple of a standard force

free-body diagram a diagram showing all external forces acting on a body

freefall a situation in which the only force acting on an object is the force of gravity

friction an external force that acts in the direction opposite to the direction of motion

inertia the tendency of an object at rest to remain at rest, or for a moving object to remain in motion in a straight line and at a constant speed

law of inertia Newton's first law of motion: a body at rest remains at rest or, if in motion, remains in motion at a constant speed in a straight line, unless acted on by a net external force; also known as the law of inertia

mass the quantity of matter in a substance; measured in kilograms

net external force the sum of all external forces acting on an object or system

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Newton's second law of motion the net external force, $\mathbf{F}_{\text{net}}$, on an object is proportional to and in the same direction as the acceleration of the object, $\mathbf{a}$, and also proportional to the object's mass, m; defined mathematically as $\mathbf{F}_{\text{net}} = m\mathbf{a}$ or $\Sigma \text{F} = m\text{a}$.

Newton's third law of motion when one body exerts a force on a second body, the first body experiences a force that is equal in magnitude and opposite in direction to the force that it exerts

normal force the force that a surface applies to an object; acts perpendicular and away from the surface with which the object is in contact

system one or more objects of interest for which only the forces acting on them from the outside are considered, but not the forces acting between them or inside them

tension a pulling force that acts along a connecting medium, especially a stretched flexible connector, such as a rope or cable; when a rope sup-

ports the weight of an object, the force exerted on the object by the rope is called tension

thrust a force that pushes an object forward in response to the backward ejection of mass by the object; rockets and airplanes are pushed forward by a thrust reaction force in response to ejecting gases backward

weight the force of gravity, $\mathbf{W}$, acting on an object of mass m; defined mathematically as $\mathbf{W} = m\mathbf{g}$, where $\mathbf{g}$ is the magnitude and direction of the acceleration due to gravity