

Below is a **complete, ready-to-teach Grade 10 Physics chapter on Gravity**—written in clear, student-friendly language, with diagrams (described), examples, numericals, formulas, fun facts, and a summary.

If you want, I can also convert this into a **PDF, slides, Runway video script, or an interactive AI-tutor lesson** for XReality Education.

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# Chapter: Gravity

**Grade: 10 Physics**

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## 1. Introduction to Gravity

Gravity is a fundamental force of nature that **pulls objects toward each other**.

It keeps you on the ground, holds the Moon in orbit around Earth, and keeps planets moving around the Sun.

Whenever two objects have mass, they attract each other — even you and the chair you are sitting on!

But gravitational force becomes noticeable only when **huge masses** are involved, like Earth, the Sun, and planets.

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## 2. Newton's Law of Universal Gravitation

In 1687, **Sir Isaac Newton** proposed that:

**Every mass in the universe attracts every other mass with a force directly proportional to their masses and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them.**

**Mathematically:**

$$F = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$$

Where:

- **F** = gravitational force (Newtons, N)
- **G** = gravitational constant

$$G = 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \text{ Nm}^2 \text{ kg}^{-2}$$

- **$m_1$  and  $m_2$**  = masses of the two objects (kg)

- $r$  = distance between their centers (m)

## 3. Gravity on Earth

Even though all objects attract each other, **Earth's mass is so large** that its gravitational pull dominates.

### Acceleration Due to Gravity (g)

$$[ g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2 \text{ (approx.)} ]$$

This means:

Every second, a falling object's speed increases by **9.8 m/s**, if air resistance is not present.

## 4. Mass vs. Weight

Many students mix these two—so remember:

### Mass

- Amount of matter in an object
- Constant everywhere in the universe
- Unit: **kg**

### Weight

- Force of gravity acting on an object
- Changes depending on the planet
- Unit: **Newton (N)**

$$[ W = mg ]$$

### Example

If your mass = 50 kg on Earth:

$$[ W = 50 \times 9.8 = 490 \text{ N} ]$$

On the Moon,  $g = 1.6 \text{ m/s}^2$ :

$$[$$
$$W = 50 \times 1.6 = 80 \text{ N}$$
$$]$$

So **mass remains 50 kg**, but **weight changes**.

## 5. Free Fall and Air Resistance

### Free Fall

When an object falls only under gravity (no air resistance), its acceleration =  $g$ .

### Air Resistance

Air pushes upward against falling objects, slowing them down.  
This is why:

- A feather falls slower than a stone.
- Parachutes work.

## 6. Terminal Velocity

As an object falls:

1. Gravity pulls it downward.
2. Air resistance pushes upward.
3. Eventually, forces balance  $\rightarrow$  acceleration becomes zero.

The object then falls at a **constant speed** called **terminal velocity**.

## 7. Gravity and Orbits

Planets don't fly away into space because the Sun's gravity pulls them inward.  
They also have sideways motion.

These two motions combine to create an **orbit**.

### Example: Moon's orbit around Earth

- Moon is constantly falling toward Earth due to gravity
- But because of sideways motion, it keeps missing and stays in orbit

## 8. Universal Gravitational Constant (G)

The value of G is very small:

$$[6.67 \times 10^{-11} \text{ Nm}^2\text{kg}^{-2}]$$

This means gravitational force between small objects is extremely tiny, noticeable only between very large masses.

## 9. Variation of g

Gravity is not constant everywhere.

**It depends on:**

- Distance from Earth's center
- Altitude (g decreases with height)
- Depth inside Earth
- Latitude (Earth is not a perfect sphere)

## 10. Kepler's Laws of Planetary Motion (Simple Grade 10 explanation)

### 1. Law of Orbits

Planets move around the Sun in **elliptical orbits** with the Sun at one focus.

### 2. Law of Areas

Planets sweep out equal areas in equal times → they move **faster when closer to the Sun**.

### 3. Law of Periods

$$[T^2 \propto r^3]$$

The farther a planet is from the Sun, the longer it takes to orbit.

## 11. Numerical Problems (with solutions)

### Problem 1

Find the gravitational force between two masses 10 kg and 20 kg placed 2 m apart.

$$\begin{aligned} & [ \\ & F = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2} \\ & ] \\ & [ \\ & F = 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \frac{10 \times 20}{2^2} \\ & ] \\ & [ \\ & F = 6.67 \times 10^{-11} \times \frac{200}{4} \\ & ] \\ & [ \\ & F = 3.34 \times 10^{-9} \text{ N} \\ & ] \end{aligned}$$

## Problem 2

Find the weight of a 60 kg person on Earth.

$$\begin{aligned} & [ \\ & W = mg = 60 \times 9.8 = 588 \text{ N} \\ & ] \end{aligned}$$

## Problem 3

If the distance between two objects is doubled, what happens to the gravitational force?

$$\begin{aligned} & [ \\ & F \propto \frac{1}{r^2} \\ & ] \end{aligned}$$

If  $r$  becomes  $2r$ :

$$\begin{aligned} & [ \\ & F' = \frac{F}{4} \\ & ] \end{aligned}$$

Force becomes **one-fourth**.

## 12. Common Misconceptions

- ✗ Heavy objects fall faster than light ones
- ✓ In vacuum, both fall at the same rate (only  $g$  acts)

✗ Gravity works only on Earth  
✓ Gravity acts everywhere in the universe

✗ Mass and weight are the same  
✓ No—mass stays constant, weight changes

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## 13. Real-Life Applications of Gravity

- Formation of stars and galaxies
  - Satellite launching and GPS systems
  - Tides on Earth due to Moon's gravity
  - Sports (trajectory of a football, cricket ball, basketball)
  - Water flow in rivers
  - Why planets stay in orbit
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## 14. Fun Facts

- Without gravity, the atmosphere would drift into space.
  - Astronauts in the ISS are not weightless—they are in **continuous free fall**.
  - Black holes have such strong gravity that not even light can escape.
  - Gravity waves (ripples in spacetime) were detected in 2015.
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## 15. Chapter Summary

- Gravity is a universal attractive force.
  - Newton's law:  
[  
$$F = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}$$
  
]
  - Acceleration due to gravity on Earth = **9.8 m/s<sup>2</sup>**.
  - Mass is constant; weight depends on gravity.
  - Orbits result from gravitational pull + sideways motion.
  - Gravity varies with height, depth, and latitude.
  - Kepler's laws explain motion of planets.
  - Gravitational force decreases with square of distance.
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**Would you like any of the following?**

- A **Worksheet** with 20 numerical questions
- A **multiple-choice test** with answer key
- A **PDF chapter** formatted like a textbook
- An **interactive AR lesson** for XReality Education
- Diagrams / illustrations for each section
- A **Runway video script** explaining Gravity for Grade 10

Tell me what you'd like next!