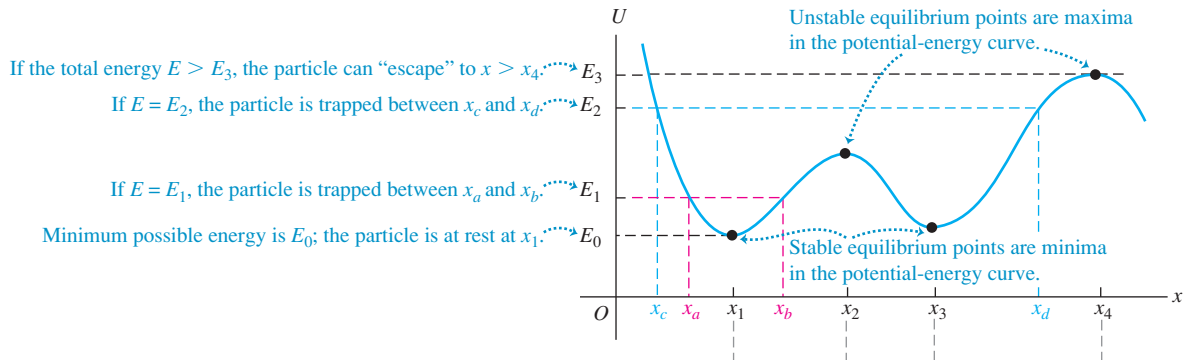


**7.24** The maxima and minima of a potential-energy function  $U(x)$  correspond to points where  $F_x = 0$ .

(a) A hypothetical potential-energy function  $U(x)$



(b) The corresponding  $x$ -component of force  $F_x(x) = -dU(x)/dx$

