Dragging Problems Name_____

D: Block Dragging 1
The next several quizzes in this column are all about dragging blocks.
Physicists love problems about blocks!
They do a great job of explaining and providing practice for how objects move and how forces work in basic situations.

Part 1: Brief review of Newton's Laws (as they apply to blocks)

Newton's First Law

An object in motion remains in motion at a constant velocity unless acted upon by a net outside force.

An object at rest remains at rest unless acted upon by a net outside force.

Implication 1:

If an object is NOT moving, the net force is zero.

Implication 2:

If an object is MOVING AT A CONSTANT VELOCITY, the net force is zero.

Newton's Second Law

$$\Sigma F = ma$$

Symbol	**Quantity**	**SI Unit**
ΣF	Net Force	Newton's
m	Mass	Kilograms
a	Acceleration	m/s^2

Questions:

D.1. A 10 kg block is not moving, What is the net force acting on the block?

D.2. A 10 kg block is moving at a constant velocity. What is the net force acting on the block?

D.3. A 10 kg block is moving with an acceleration of 2 m/s^2. What is the net force acting on the block?

D.4. A 10 kg block is moving at a constant velocity of 8 m/s. What is the net force acting on the block?

Dragging Problems Name_____

Part 2: A Block Resting on a Flat Surface:

The simplest block problem is just a block resting on the floor, doing absolutely nothing. But it still experiences two forces on it!

Force 1: Gravity

Weight (The force of gravity)

Acts on any object that is on the surface of a planet.

The direction of gravity is always straight down.

The magnitude is always *mg*, mass times the free-fall acceleration

$$F_g = mg$$

Symbol	Quantity	SI Unit	Notes
F_g	Magnitude of force of gravity (weight)	Newtons (N)	
m	Mass	Kilograms (kg)	
g	Free-fall acceleration (on earth, 9.8 m/s^2)	Meters per second squared (m/s^2)	Property of the planet.

Force 2: The Normal Force

Normal Force

A constraint force that prevents items from falling through the floor.

The direction of the normal force is always *perpendicular* to a surface. In physics, the word "normal" means perpendicular.

In most simple situations, the magnitude is equal to the force of gravity.
In more complex situations, the magnitude will change such that the net force in the y-axis is zero.

Physically, the normal force represents the strength of the connection between an object and a surface.

For simper problems, the normal force is upward and the magnitude of the normal force is equal to that of gravity, thus canceling gravity out.
In more complex situations, the normal force can change to match the situation.

Dragging Problems Name_____

Situation D.5. An block is resting on a table. It has a mass of 2.00 kg. (2 forces)

What is the *net force* acting on the block? How do you know?

Free-Body Diagram		
Force	**Magnitude**	**How do you determine the magnitude?**

Situation D.6: A block is resting on a table. It has a mass of 5.00 kg.

Free-Body Diagram		
Force	**Magnitude**	**How do you determine the magnitude?**

Dragging Problems Name_____

Part 3: A Block Being Pulled on a Frictionless Surface

A block pulled on a frictionless surface experiences three forces:
gravity, the normal force, and an **applied force**, which is a fancy name for the pull.

If there is no opposing force, like friction, acting on the block, then the pulling force on the block will definitely cause the block to *accelerate*.

Force 3. Applied Forces

Forces such as pushes or pulls acting on an object.
The magnitude and direction are not determined by any specific formula. Often, they are given in the problem or need to be determined as part of the problem.

Situation D.7: A 2.00 kg object is on a frictionless table. It is being pushed to the right with a force of 16.0 Newtons.

Is the object accelerating or moving at a constant velocity?

Free-Body Diagram		
Force	**Magnitude**	**How do you determine the magnitude?**

What is the net force acting on the block?

What is the acceleration of the block?

Dragging Problems Name_____

Situation D.8: A 3.56 kg object is on a frictionless table. It is being pushed to the right with a force of 12.6 Newtons.

Free-Body Diagram		
Force	**Magnitude**	**How do you determine the magnitude?**

What is the acceleration of the block?