

## Topic: Conservation of Energy

### A - Aim

To understand the **Law of Conservation of Energy** and how energy is neither created nor destroyed, only transformed from one form to another.

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### C - Concept

- The total energy of an **isolated system remains constant**.
  - Energy can **change forms** (e.g., potential to kinetic, chemical to thermal) but the total energy stays the same.
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### H - How it works

- When a ball falls, **potential energy** is converted to **kinetic energy**.
  - In machines, energy might transform into **heat, sound, or motion** – but no energy is lost, only changed in form.
  - Ideal systems have **no loss**; real systems may have **friction, resistance**, etc., but total energy is conserved.
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### E - Equations/Formulas

1. **Total Energy (Ideal System):**  
 $E = KE + PE = \text{constant}$
2. **Mechanical Energy Conservation:**  
 $KE_1 + PE_1 = KE_2 + PE_2$
3. **Units:**
  - Energy: **Joule (J)**

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## S - Steps to solve problems

1. Identify all **initial and final energy forms** (usually KE and PE).
  2. Apply **conservation equation**:  
$$KE_{\text{initial}} + PE_{\text{initial}} = KE_{\text{final}} + PE_{\text{final}}$$
  3. Plug in known values and solve.
  4. Ensure **units are consistent**.
  5. Interpret results in terms of energy transformation.
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## E - Example

**Q:** A 1 kg object is dropped from a height of 20 m. What is its speed just before hitting the ground (ignore air resistance)?

**Sol:**

- Initial:  $PE = mgh = 1 \times 9.8 \times 20 = 196 \text{ J}$   
 $PE = mgh = 1 \times 9.8 \times 20 = 196 \text{ J}$ ,  $KE = 0$
- Final:  $PE = 0$ , all energy is converted to KE
- $KE = \frac{1}{2}mv^2 = 196$   
 $\Rightarrow v^2 = \frac{2 \times 196}{1} = 392$   
 $\Rightarrow v = \sqrt{392} \approx 19.8 \text{ m/s}$