

**Example 4:** You are playing with a yo-yo with a mass of  $M$ . The full length of the string is  $2R$ . You decide to see how slowly you can swing it in a vertical circle while keeping the string fully extended, even when the yo-yo is at the top of its swing.

- Calculate the minimum speed at which you can swing the yo-yo while keeping it on a circular path.
- Find the tension in the string when the yo-yo is at the side and at the bottom of its swing.

**Top of the swing:**

$$U + K = K'$$

$$MgR + \frac{1}{2}MgR = \frac{1}{2}Mv^2$$

$$\frac{3}{2}gR = \frac{1}{2}v^2$$

$$v^2 = 3gR$$

$$v = \sqrt{3gR}$$

**Side of the swing:**

$$F_c = T = \frac{Mv^2}{R}$$

$$= \frac{M(3gR)}{R}$$

$$T = 3Mg$$

**Bottom of the swing:**

$$U + K = K'$$

$$Mg(2R) + \frac{1}{2}M(5gR) = \frac{1}{2}Mv^2$$

$$2gR + \frac{1}{2}gR = \frac{1}{2}v^2$$

$$\frac{5}{2}gR = \frac{1}{2}v^2$$

$$v^2 = 5gR$$

$$v = \sqrt{5gR}$$

**Force analysis at the bottom:**

$$F_c = T - Mg = \frac{Mv^2}{R}$$

$$T = Mg + \frac{Mv^2}{R}$$

$$= Mg + 5Mg$$

$$T = 6Mg$$

**Force analysis at the top:**

$$F_c = T + Mg = \frac{Mv^2}{R}$$

slowest  $v$  occurs when  $T = 0$

$$Mg = \frac{Mv^2}{R}$$

$$v^2 = gR \rightarrow v = \sqrt{gR}$$

minimum speed at the top.

**Acceleration at the bottom:**

$$Ma_T = v^2/R$$

$$a_T = g$$

$$\alpha = \frac{a_T}{R} = \frac{g}{R}$$

**Diagram:**

both point toward center

opposite dir. to centripetal force

$\times \sqrt{5}$  faster than at the top.