

# Speed, Velocity and Acceleration

## 3. Typical Speeds

- Walking = 1.5 m/s
- Running = 3 m/s
- Cycling = 6 m/s
- Car = 25 m/s
- Train = 55 m/s
- Plane = 250 m/s

1. **Speed** is how fast something is going without reference to a direction. It is a scalar quantity.

2. **Velocity** is a speed in a given direction. It is a vector.

4.  $s = vt$

Time (s) →  
Distance (m) ←  
Speed (m/s) ←

## Uniform Acceleration

18. This can happen due to gravity acting on an object in free fall.

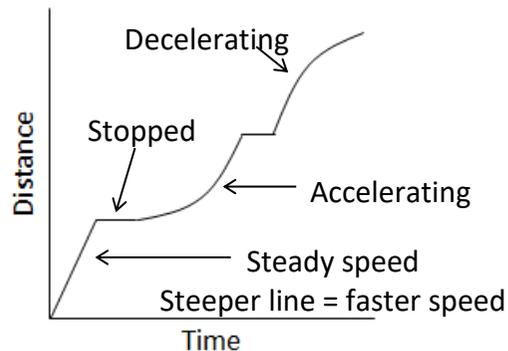
19.  $v^2 - u^2 = 2as$

Final velocity (m/s) →  $v^2$  ← Initial velocity (m/s) →  $u^2$  ← Acceleration (m/s<sup>2</sup>) →  $2as$  ← Distance (m)

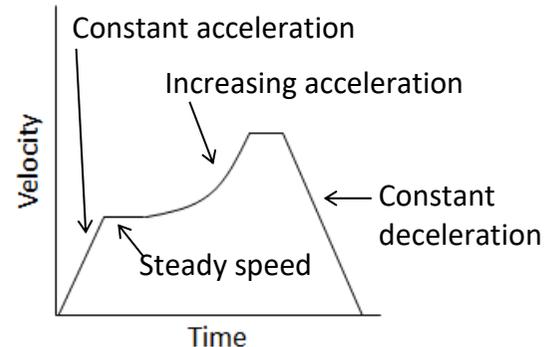
eg. If a car travelling at 24m/s (**u**) decelerates uniformly at 2m/s<sup>2</sup> (**a**) as it enters a housing estate 120m (**s**) away, what will its speed be as it reaches the housing estate (**v**)?

20. 1. Rearrange the equation:  $v^2 = u^2 + 2as$
2. Put in numbers and calculate v<sup>2</sup>:  $v^2 = 24^2 + (2 \times -2 \times 120) = 96$
3. Find the square root to give v:  $v = \sqrt{96} = 9.8m/s$

## 5. Distance-Time Graphs

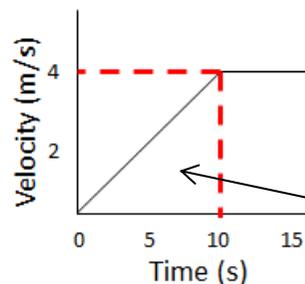


## 6. Velocity-Time Graphs



7. The **acceleration** is the **gradient** of the line ( $\Delta v \div t$ ).

8. To work out the **distance** travelled, find the **area** under the line.



Eg. the distance over the first 10s is:

$$\frac{1}{2} \times 10 \times 4 = 20m$$

9. The area under the line is a triangle, so  $\frac{1}{2}$  the area of a rectangle.

## Acceleration

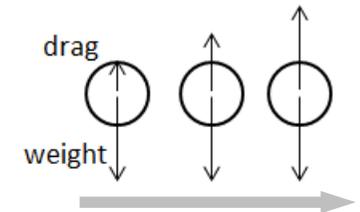
10. How **quickly** something is **speeding up**.

11. Deceleration is negative acceleration (slowing down).

12. Acceleration (m/s<sup>2</sup>) →  $a = \frac{\Delta v}{t}$  ← Change in velocity (m/s) ← Time (s)

## Terminal Velocity

13. The maximum speed an object will fall at through a fluid (liquid or gas).



14. Speed increases so frictional force (drag) increases.

15. Acceleration is reduced until the drag is equal to the weight. Terminal velocity is reached.

16. The **shape**, and **surface area** will affect terminal velocity.

17. A larger surface area will increase air resistance so decrease terminal velocity.