

# Kinetic Energy

Definition: Energy is energy due to motion.

The amount of energy in a moving object depends upon its speed and its mass.

The faster an object moves, the more kinetic energy it has.

Mass also affects kinetic energy. The more mass an object has, the more kinetic energy it has.

Imagine that you are on a beach and you have just built a sandcastle. If a beach ball rolls over and hits your sand castle, what do you think would happen?

What do you think would happen if a basketball, rolling at the same speed as the beach ball, hit your sand castle? Why?

Like all forms of energy, kinetic energy can **change into different forms of energy.**



**EXAMPLES:** A windmill changes the kinetic energy of wind into electric energy.

When a drumstick hits a drum, kinetic energy becomes  
\_\_\_\_\_ energy.

Kinetic energy can also change into **thermal energy**.

Rub your hands together for a few seconds. What happens?  
What do you feel?

An **increase** in thermal energy **increases temperature**.

**QUESTION OF THE DAY:** Think of examples you see at school of kinetic energy.

What determines how much kinetic energy a moving object has?

Which has more kinetic energy, a horse that is walking or the same horse that is galloping? Why?

You roll a ball across a carpeted floor. What are two ways that you could increase the amount of kinetic energy in the ball?