

Physics Honors: Elastic vs Inelastic Collisions

Kinetic Energy

Kinetic Energy is the energy of motion.

Kinetic Energy is affected by an object's mass and speed.

Energy, like momentum, can be conserved.

Elastic Collisions

Elastic collisions when both momentum AND kinetic energy are conserved.

Inelastic Collisions

Collisions in which ONLY momentum are conserved are called inelastic collisions.

When objects stick together after they collide, we call them perfectly inelastic