

More Constant Acceleration Problems

1. A happy physics student is leaving school for the day. This student uniformly accelerates her car from rest with an acceleration of 1.2 m/s^2 .

a. How long does it take her to reach 15 m/s ?

$$v_i = 0 \text{ m/s}$$

$$a = 1.2 \text{ m/s}^2$$

$$v_f = 15 \text{ m/s}$$

$$v_f = at + v_i$$

$$15 = (1.2)t + 0$$

$$15 = 1.2t$$

$$t = 12.5 \text{ seconds}$$

b. How far does she travel in this time?

$$d = \frac{1}{2}at^2 + v_i t$$

$$d = \frac{1}{2}(1.2)(12.5)^2 + (0)(12.5)$$

$$d = \frac{1}{2}(1.2)(12.5)^2$$

$$d = 93.75 \text{ m}$$

2. A car is uniformly accelerated at the rate of 2.5 m/s^2 for 12 s .

a. If the original speed of the car is 8 m/s , what is its final speed?

$$a = 2.5 \text{ m/s}^2$$

$$t = 12 \text{ s}$$

$$v_i = 8 \text{ m/s}$$

$$v_f = ?$$

$$v_f = at + v_i$$

$$v_f = (2.5)(12) + 8$$

$$v_f = 38 \text{ m/s}$$

b. How far does the car travel in this time?

$$d = \frac{1}{2}at^2 + v_i t$$

$$d = \frac{1}{2}(2.5)(12)^2 + (8)(12)$$

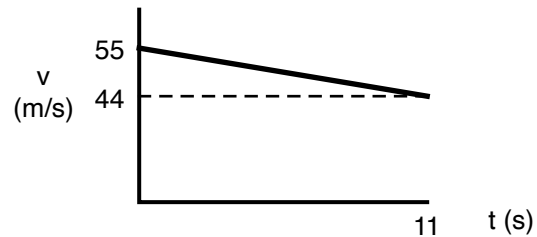
$$d = 180 + 96$$

$$d = 276 \text{ m}$$

3. The velocity vs time graph for a car is shown to the right.

a. Describe the motion.

car slowed down at a constant rate, going from 55 m/s to 44 m/s in 11 seconds



b. What is the acceleration of the car?

$$a = \frac{v_f - v_i}{t} = \frac{44 - 55}{11} = \frac{-11}{11} = -1 \text{ m/s}^2$$

c. How far does the car travel during this time?

$$v_i = 55 \text{ m/s}$$

$$v_f = 44 \text{ m/s}$$

$$t = 11 \text{ s}$$

$$a = -1 \text{ m/s}^2$$

$$d = \frac{1}{2}at^2 + v_i t$$

$$= \frac{1}{2}(-1)(11)^2 + (55)(11)$$

$$= -60.5 + 605$$

$$d = 544.5 \text{ m}$$

OR

$$\text{or } \bar{v} = \frac{v_i + v_f}{2} = \frac{55 + 44}{2} = 49.5 \text{ m/s}$$

$$\text{then } d = \bar{v} t = (49.5)(11)$$

$$d = 544.5 \text{ m}$$

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4. Mary is riding her bike with a speed of 14 m/s, when she slows down at a constant rate and comes to rest in 7 seconds.

a. What is Mary's acceleration?

$$v_i = 14 \text{ m/s}$$

$$t = 7 \text{ s}$$

$$v_f = 0 \text{ m/s}$$

$$a = ?$$

$$a = \frac{v_f - v_i}{t}$$

$$a = \frac{0 - 14}{7}$$

$$a = -2 \text{ m/s}^2$$

b. How far does Mary travel while slowing down?

$$d = \frac{1}{2}at^2 + v_i t$$

$$d = \frac{1}{2}(-2)(7)^2 + (14)(7)$$

$$d = -49 + 98$$

$$d = 49 \text{ m}$$

5. A ball rolling down an incline for 0.75 seconds undergoes a uniform acceleration of 4.2 m/s². The ball has an initial speed of 2.2 m/s when it starts down the incline.

a. How far does the ball roll?

$$t = 0.75 \text{ s}$$

$$a = 4.2 \text{ m/s}^2$$

$$v_i = 2.2 \text{ m/s}$$

$$d = \frac{1}{2}at^2 + v_i t$$

$$d = \frac{1}{2}(4.2)(0.75)^2 + (2.2)(0.75)$$

$$d = 1.18 + 1.65$$

$$d = 2.83 \text{ m}$$

b. How fast is the ball moving at the bottom of the incline?

$$v_f = at + v_i$$

$$v_f = (4.2)(0.75) + 2.2$$

$$v_f = 3.15 + 2.2$$

$$v_f = 5.35 \text{ m/s}$$

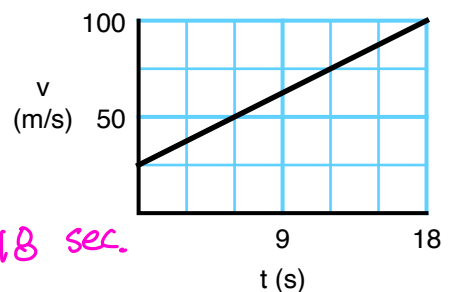
6. The velocity vs time graph for a plane is shown to the right. How far does the plane travel in the time shown?
(Hint: there are two ways to do this & each way requires two steps!)

From the graph we have the following:

$$v_i = 25 \text{ m/s}$$

$$v_f = 100 \text{ m/s}$$

$$t = 18 \text{ sec}$$



$$d = \frac{1}{2}at^2 + v_i t$$

Hey! we need to find a first!

OR

Hey! we need to find \bar{v} first!

$$\text{So } a = \frac{v_f - v_i}{t} = \frac{100 - 25}{18} = \frac{75}{18} = 4.17 \text{ m/s}^2$$

$$\text{So } \bar{v} = \frac{v_i + v_f}{2} = \frac{25 + 100}{2}$$

$$\bar{v} = 62.5 \text{ m/s}$$

Then

$$d = \frac{1}{2}at^2 + v_i t = \frac{1}{2}(4.17)(18)^2 + (25)(18)$$

$$d = 675 + 450$$

$$d = 1125 \text{ m}$$

$$\text{Then } d = \bar{v} t = (62.5)(18)$$

$$d = 1125 \text{ m}$$

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Answers:

1. a) 12.5 s b) 93.8 m
2. a) 38 m/s b) 276 m
3. a) car slows down from 55 m/s to 44 m/s in 11 seconds b) -1 m/s^2 c) 545 m
4. a) -2 m/s^2 b) 49 m
5. a) 2.83 m b) 5.35 m/s
- 6.) 1125 m (& first steps were either: $v_{ave} = 62.5 \text{ m/s}$ or $a = 4.17 \text{ m/s}^2$)