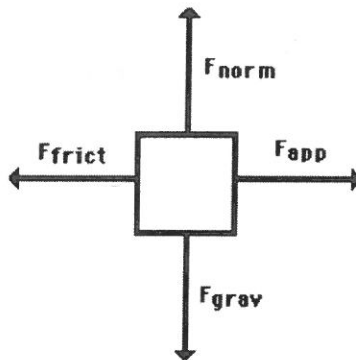


Free-Body Diagrams Practice Package

Free body diagrams (otherwise known as FBD's) are simplified representations of an object (the **body**) in a problem, and include force vectors acting on the object. This body is **free** because the diagram will show it without its surroundings; i.e. the body is 'free' of its environment. This eliminates unnecessary information which might be given in a problem.



Gravity

The first force we will investigate is that due to gravity, and we'll call it the **gravitational force**. We know that the acceleration due to gravity (if on Earth) is approximately $g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$. The force, by Newton's Second Law is

$$F = m g$$

Normal

The **normal force** one which prevents objects from 'falling' into whatever it is they are sitting upon. It is always *perpendicular* to the surface with which an object is in contact. For example, if there is a crate on the floor, then we say that the crate experiences a normal force *by* the floor; and because of this force, the crate does not fall into the floor. The normal force on the crate points upward, perpendicular to the floor.

Friction

Related to the normal force is the **frictional force**. The two are related because they are both due to the surface in contact with the body. Whereas the normal force was perpendicular to the surface, the frictional force is parallel. Furthermore, friction opposes motion, and so its vector always points away from the direction of movement.

Applied Push or Pull

Another force which may act on an object could be any physical push or pull. This could be caused by a person pushing a crate on the floor, a child pulling on a wagon, or in the case of our example, the wind pushing on the ship.

Tension

Tension in an object results if pulling force act on its ends, such as in a rope used to pull a boulder. If no forces are acting on the rope, say, except at its ends, and the rope itself is in equilibrium, then the tension is the same throughout the rope.

The **net force** or the **unbalanced force** is the vector sum of all the forces which act upon an object. That is to say, the net force is the sum of all the forces, taking into account the fact that a force is a vector and two forces of equal magnitude and opposite direction will cancel each other out.

Name _____ D _____ P _____

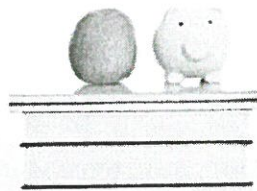
An egg is free-falling from a nest in a tree. Neglect air resistance.



A flying squirrel is gliding (no *wing flaps*) from a tree to the ground at constant velocity. Consider air resistance.



A rightward force is applied to a book in order to move it across a desk with a rightward acceleration. Consider frictional forces. Neglect air resistance.



Name _____ D _____ P _____

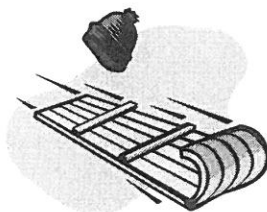
A college student rests a backpack upon his shoulder. The pack is suspended motionless by one strap from one shoulder.



A skydiver is descending with a constant velocity. Consider air resistance.



A force is applied to the right to drag a sled across loosely packed snow with a rightward acceleration.



Name _____ D _____ P _____

A football is moving upwards towards its peak after having been *booted* by the punter.



A car is coasting to the right and slowing down.

