

Potential vs. Kinetic Energy

Potential energy is stored energy. It can be released or harnessed to do work. **Kinetic energy** is the energy possessed by an object as a result of its motion. Label each description as an example of kinetic energy or potential energy.

- 1 _____ A skier is poised at the top of a steep slope.
- 2 _____ A concrete dam holds back a large reservoir of water.
- 3 _____ An archer has pulled back the string of his bow, ready to release the arrow at the distant target.
- 4 _____ A woman swings her golf club down toward the golf ball sitting on the tee.
- 5 _____ A man swings an axe toward a log.
- 6 _____ A flowerpot is falling from a windowsill.
- 7 _____ A catapult is loaded with a boulder and pulled back into position. It is ready to be launched.
- 8 _____ A fast-moving stream runs toward the mill.
- 9 _____ The baseball player swings her bat.
- 10 _____ A roller coaster has reached the top of the highest crest.
- 11 _____ A marble rolls across the table.
- 12 _____ A child is about to let go of a yo-yo.