

Year 7 – Forces Glossary

Key word	Definition
acceleration	How quickly speed increases or decreases.
air resistance	A force on an object moving through air that causes it to slow down.
average speed	The overall distance travelled divided by overall time for the journey.
balanced forces	Forces acting on an object that are same in size but act in opposite directions.
contact force	A force that only acts when 2 objects are touching.
deceleration	How quickly speed decreases.
drag	A force on an object moving through air or a liquid that causes it to slow down.
friction	A contact force that acts opposite to the direction an object is moving in.
gradient	How steep or shallow a line-of-best-fit is.
Newtonmeter	A piece of equipment that measures the force acting on an object.
non-contact force	A force that will act even when no objects are touching.
relative motion	When an object's speed and direction depends on the observer's speed and direction.
observer	The person who is taking measurements in an experiment.
resultant force	A single force that can replace all forces acting on an object and have the same effect.
speed	The distance covered per unit of time.
stationary	Not moving.
velocity	The speed in a particular direction.