

acceleration

the time rate of change of velocity; can be a speeding up, slowing down and/or changing of direction

air resistance

friction caused by movement of bodies through the air

average speed

defined as distance over time

average velocity

defined as displacement over time

bearings

angles measured clockwise from north; used in vector analysis

centripetal  
acceleration

the acceleration directed  
towards the centre of a  
circle about which an  
object is moving

centripetal force

the force directed towards  
the centre of a circle  
necessary for an object to  
follow a circular path

collision

when two or more objects  
exert forces on each other,  
generally over a short time  
interval

component

one of the numerous  
vectors that can be  
added vectorially to yield  
a resultant vector

displacement

change in position in a  
given direction

dynamics

the study of the causes of motion

elastic collision

a collision in which kinetic energy is conserved

energy

the capacity for doing work

equilibrium

the state in which a body does not undergo any changes in its motion; the resultant force is zero

force

that which changes the motion or shape of a body

friction

a force that always opposes motion; arises as a result of contact between different materials

gravitational field

that region of space in which a mass experiences a force of attraction from other masses

gravity

the force of gravitation on an object

impulse

the product of force and time; equals the change in momentum

inelastic collision

a collision in which kinetic energy is not conserved; it is conserved into other forms such as heat and sound

inertia	the property of matter that causes it to resist changes in motion
instantaneous velocity	the velocity at an instant of time; found by taking the average velocity over an extremely small time interval; it is equal to the slope of the tangent at the point on a displacement-time graph
joule	the unity of energy (or work); the product of a force of one newton acting through a distance of one metre
kilogram	the SI unit of mass