

## 2.0 Power:

Like many other physics terms, *power* has a meaning in English that is not the same as its physics definition. We define Power as the rate of change of energy, or the rate of work:

$$P = dE/dt = W/dt$$

For instance, with the proper pulleys or gearing, a 1W motor (as in a small toy car) could pull a truck up a hill, raising its elevation 100 m, but it would take many days. However, a massive engine changes the truck's potential energy very quickly.

Exercise 1: The units of power is the *Watt (W)*, after James Watt. Please show from the definition of power that  $W = \text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^2/\text{s}^3$ . The English unit of power is the *horsepower*:  
 $1 \text{ hp} \sim 746 \text{ W}$

Exercise 2: In the last chapter, you carried a 20 kg mass 100 m for an elevation gain of 30 m. If it took you 30 s to do that, what was your average power output?

A human being can put out about 1000 W ( $\sim 1.3 \text{ hp}$ ), but only for a few seconds; and can maintain a mechanical power output of 100 W for a long period of time. Additionally, a person's body produces thermal energy at a rate of about 100 W, just to maintain our daily life processes. That's why a room full of people heats up *even if no one's dancing*. Energy is conserved, so all the power you put out, you have taken in as *chemical potential energy*, food.

Exercise 3: The dietary energy unit is the Calorie ( $\sim 4200 \text{ J}$ ), not to be confused with the thermal calorie (with a small "c" of  $\sim 4.2 \text{ J}$ ). Estimate how many calories you consume daily, and see if this corresponds to an average power intake of  $\sim 100 \text{ W}$ .

Exercise 4: Show that if you are pushing a car up a hill at a constant force and a constant speed, the power you are putting out is:

$$P = F \cdot v.$$

You will want to use the definitions of Power (above) and  $W = dE = F \cdot dx$