

# General Physics: Mechanics

**PHYS-101(en)**

**Lecture 8b: Kinetic energy  
and work**

**Dr. Marcelo Baquero**  
[marcelo.baquero@epfl.ch](mailto:marcelo.baquero@epfl.ch)  
November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025



# Conceptual question

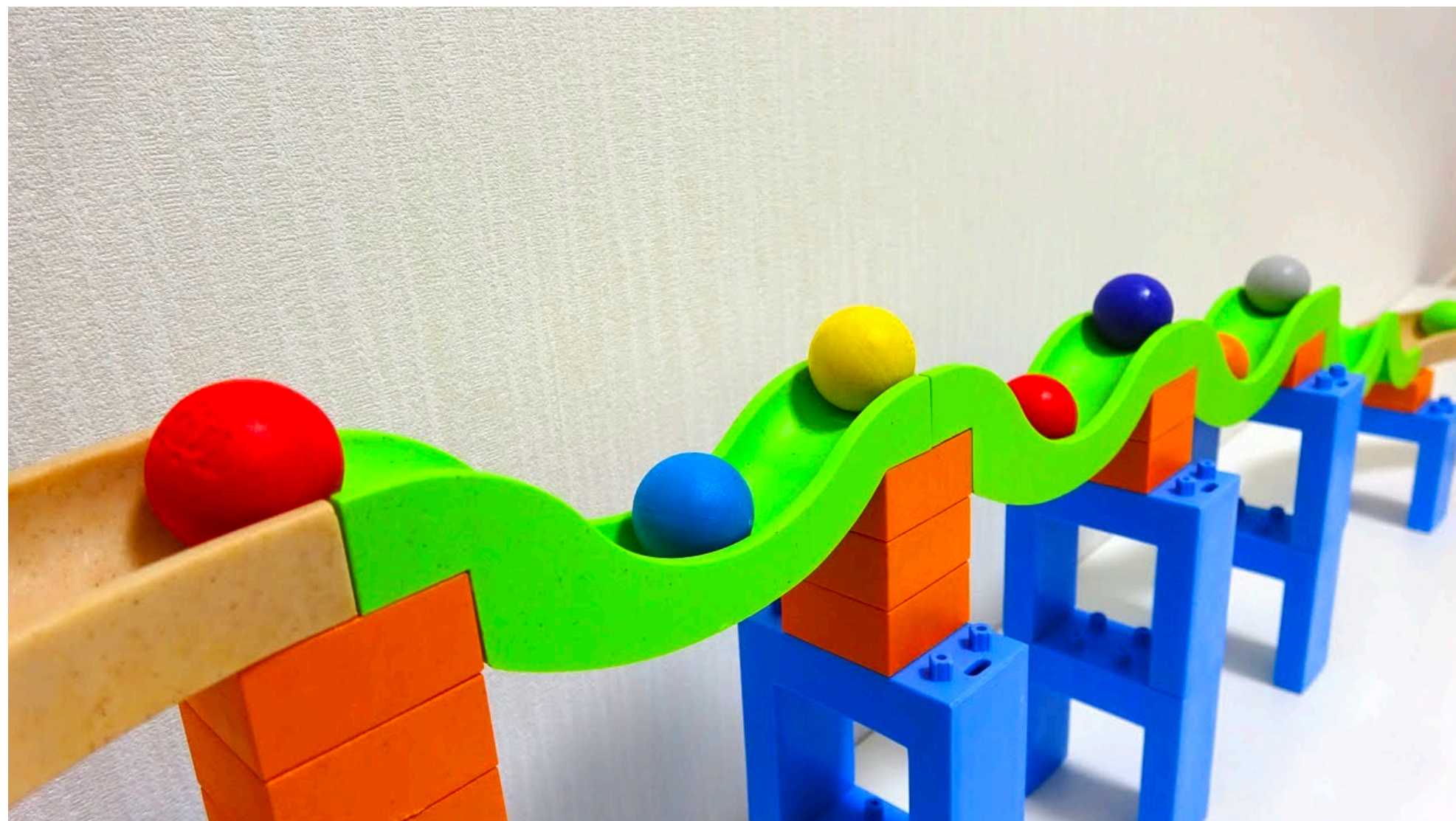
---

Compared to the amount of energy required to accelerate a car from rest to 10 km/h, the work required to accelerate the same car from 10 km/h to 20 km/h is...

- A. the same.
- B. twice as much.
- C. three times as much.
- D. four times as much.

# Example: Marbula One racing

You're designing a *marble racing* track! The course is straight (i.e. no left or right turns) and the marbles are released from rest at a height  $h_0$ . Given the height  $h(s)$  as a function of the distance  $s$  along the track, you need to calculate the marble's speed  $v(s)$  to ensure they can make it to the bottom. Ignore friction and drag.



# Example: Marbula One racing

---

# Example: Marbula One racing (w/ friction)

You're designing a *marble racing* track! The course is straight (i.e. no left or right turns) and the marbles are released from rest at the top. Given a **linear height profile that makes an angle  $\theta$  below the horizon**,  $h(s) = -\sin \theta s + h_0$ , you need to calculate the marble's speed  $v(s)$  to ensure they can make it to the bottom. Let the friction coefficient be  $\mu_k$  and ignore drag.



# Example: Marbula One racing (w/ friction)

---

# Conceptual question

An acorn falls to the earth from a tree. Which of the following graphs best represents the time dependence of the acorn's kinetic energy? Neglect air resistance.

