

Newton's 2nd Law in 2-D

*When a force is applied to an object and it accelerates in the direction of one of the components of the applied force (not in the direction of the applied force), the force in that component must be used to find acceleration.

ex.

Sally pulls a 35 kg wagon with a force along the handle of 26 N at 15 degrees above the horizontal. The frictional force between the wagon and the ground is 2 N to the left. Find the acceleration of the wagon assuming that it accelerates to the right.

*When there are two or more applied forces on an object, you must find the resultant of the applied forces to find the acceleration of the object.

ex.

Forces of 30 N [W] and 45 N [S] act on a 25 kg object. Find the object's acceleration.

ex.

Repeat the previous question with a 15 N frictional force on the object (all other things being the same).

*Friction always acts opposite the direction of motion.