## Tobin's Spirit Guide to Graphs of Motion

## Position Graphs:

|  | Moving to the Left (Negative Velocity) | Moving to the Right (Positive Velocity) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Negative velocity means negative slope. (The graph goes down as you move left to right) Speeding up means the graph gets steeper and steeper. | Positive velocity means positive slope. (The graph goes up as you move left to right) Speeding up means the graph gets steeper and steeper. |
|  |  <br> Already moving | Accelerating from rest and 40 <br> Already moving |
|  | Negative velocity means negative slope. (The graph goes down as you move left to right) Constant speed means the slope doesn't change - it's a straight line. | Positive velocity means positive slope. (The graph goes up as you move left to right) Constant speed means the slope doesn't change - it's a straight line. |
|  | Negative velocity means negative slope. (The graph goes down as you move left to right) Slowing down means the graph gets less and less steep. | Positive velocity means positive slope. (The graph goes up as you move left to right) Slowing down means the graph gets less and less steep. |

Velocity Graphs:


Acceleration Graphs:

|  | Moving to the Left (Negative Velocity) | Moving to the Right (Positive Velocity) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | In order to speed up, the acceleration and the velocity must be in the same direction. If it is moving left and going faster and faster, the acceleration must also be to the left, and therefore negative. | In order to speed up, the acceleration and the velocity must be in the same direction. If it is moving right and going faster and faster, the acceleration must also be to the right, and therefore positive. |
|  | If the velocity is constant, the acceleration is zero, regardless which way it is moving. | If the velocity is constant, the acceleration is zero, regardless which way it is moving. |
|  | In order to slow down, the acceleration and the velocity must be in the opposite directions. If it is moving left and going slower and slower, the acceleration then must be to the right, and therefore positive | In order to slow down, the acceleration and the velocity must be in the opposite directions. If it is moving right and going slower and slower, the acceleration then must be to the left, and therefore negative |

