

Flipping Physics Lecture Notes:  
Understanding the Tension Force

The Tension Force or the Force of Tension is the force transmitted through a rope, cable, string or wire pulled taut by forces acting on both ends.

- Symbol:  $F_T$  or  $T$  [Often referred to as just “Tension.”]
- The Tension Force, like all forces, is a vector and has both magnitude and direction.
  - Direction:
    - Always a pull.
    - In the direction of the rope.
    - In opposite directions on opposite ends of the rope.
  - Magnitude: Equal in magnitude on both ends of the rope.

