

Vocabulary



air resistance friction between a falling object and air

When a skydiver jumps out of a plane, her parachute is not open. The skydiver's body falls very fast toward the ground because it doesn't have much air resistance. When she opens her parachute, it has much air resistance. Her speed slows down, and she safely lands.

friction a force between two surfaces that are touching; friction works against motion

When your shoes move against a rough sidewalk, the friction between the shoe soles and the sidewalk keeps your shoes from slipping. If the sidewalk is icy, there is little friction between your shoes and the ice. You might fall down!

gravity the force that pulls objects toward each other

Gravity is weak unless an object has a lot of mass. Earth and the Moon have a lot of mass, so the force of gravity between Earth and the Moon helps keep the Moon moving around Earth instead of moving away into space.

lubricant a material that reduces friction

Suppose the chain on your bicycle is difficult to move. To help it move, you put some oil on the chain. The oil reduces friction between the chain and the gears. Oil is a lubricant because it reduces friction between two objects.