

Vocabulary



contract to become smaller; to shrink or take up less space

When something contracts, it becomes smaller because the particles that it is made of come closer together. When a gas cools, it contracts.

expand to become larger; to spread out or take up more space

When something expands, it becomes larger because the particles that it is made of spread out more. When a gas is heated, it expands.

pressure the amount of force pressing on something

Air is made of particles that have mass. As air particles strike objects, they exert pressure. The faster the particles move, the more pressure they exert. Also, the more particles there are in a certain area, the greater the pressure will be in that area.