

Video zone: How do bubbles work? – exercises

Why do bubbles pop when you touch them? This video explores the science behind bubbles and shows an experiment you can try when you're washing up!

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises. Remember you can read the transcript at any time.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–f next to the numbers 1–6.

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|--------|-----------------|----|--|
| 1..... | a molecule | a. | a force in a liquid that holds its surface together |
| 2..... | surface tension | b. | covered in oil |
| 3..... | soapy | c. | a unit of a chemical substance, usually a group of two or more atoms |
| 4..... | oily | d. | to break apart suddenly |
| 5..... | bounce | e. | containing soap or something similar |
| 6..... | to burst | f. | what a ball does when it hits a hard surface |

1. Check your understanding: gap fill

Complete the summary with words from the box.

soap	oil (x2)	soft	catch
bursts		mix	glove

We can't (1)_____ bubbles because our hands break the surface tension. Our hands have some (2)_____ on them, which keeps them (3)_____. However, (4)_____ loves oil. It tries to take the oil molecules away, which (5)_____ the bubble.

Bubbles don't burst if they land on a (6)_____. This is because the bubble can't (7)_____ with the (8)_____ on our hands.

2. Check your grammar: reordering

Write the words in the correct order to make sentences.

1. bursts. | we | with our hands, | When | touch a bubble | it

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2. a bubble | on a glove, | bounces. | it | When | lands

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3. heat | it | When | ice, | you | melts.

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4. get stomach ache. | you | you | eat | too much, | When

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5. the lights | can | go | turn | You | green. | when

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6. reaches | 100 degrees. | Water | it | when | boils

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Discussion

Do you know any other fun science facts?