

## Drag forces and friction

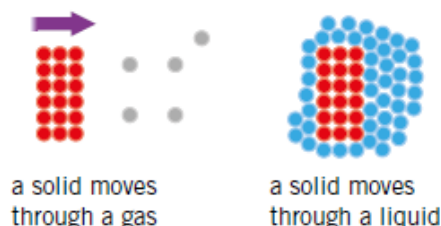
Friction is a contact force that occurs when two objects move against each other. It happens because all surfaces have some roughness – even ones that look smooth.

Friction can be reduced by adding **lubrication** (e.g., oil or grease).

Friction is often useful, for example:

- you need friction to walk across surfaces
- the brakes on a bike need friction to work.

A solid moving through a liquid or a gas has to push the liquid or gas particles out of the way. This produces a drag force on the solid object.



Water resistance and air resistance are drag forces.

Drag forces can be useful if we need to slow something down, for example, by using parachutes.

Making an object more **streamlined** will reduce the drag forces on it.

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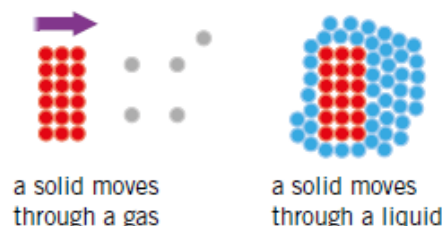
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