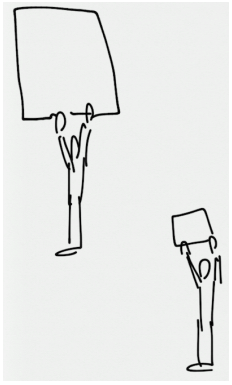
Drag Basics



Two people go outside on a windy day. Both hold up pieces of cardboard, one large and one small. Who feels more drag from the air?

What is it that affects drag here?

Two more people go outside on a windy day. Both hold up pieces of cardboard, one curved and one flat. Who feels more drag from the air?

What is it that affects drag here?

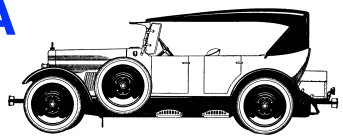
Two people are outside moving. One walks and holds his hand up, the other is driving and holds his hand up. Who feels more drag from the air on his hand?

What is it that affects drag here?

Running through air is pretty easy.
Running through water is a little tougher.
Imagine trying to run through syrup!

What is it that affects drag here?

A

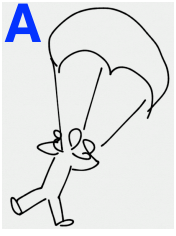


B

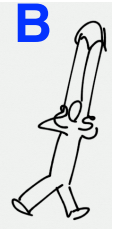
Cars used to look like car A, but now look like car B.

Why do you think they changed? How is this related to drag?

A



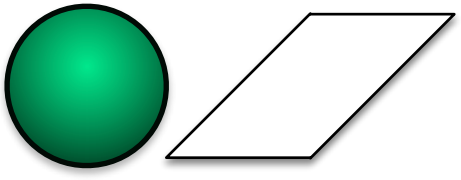
B



Which parachute is more effective? Explain in physics terms what the difference is.

Downhill skiers will often crouch down.

Why do they do that? How is this related to drag?



The average person on the street thinks that heavier objects always fall faster, and they're probably thinking about dropping a ball and dropping a piece of paper.

Is this a fair test? What is the real reason that the paper falls slower?