

Raisin race

Open a soft drink and you'll hear a fizz and see bubbles. There is a gas dissolved in the liquid! Use the gas to give some raisins a ride.

You will need:

- a clear glass
- ginger ale or another clear soft drink
- several raisins
- a spoon

What to do:

1. Carefully pour the ginger ale into the glass. If you tip the glass and pour the ginger ale gently down the side, you will keep more of the fizz in the liquid.
2. Drop two raisins into the ginger ale. Watch them race up and down.
3. Use the spoon to remove the raisins. Squeeze one of them to flatten it. Now drop both raisins back into the ginger ale. Does one raisin go up and down faster than the other?
4. Put a bunch of raisins into the ginger ale and watch them race.

What's happening?

The raisins rise on a bubble elevator. Where do the bubbles come from? A soft drink has a special gas called carbon dioxide dissolved in it. A machine pumps the gas into the soft drink at the factory, then the lid is sealed. When you open the drink, the hiss you hear is the gas escaping.



As the gas comes out of the spaces between the molecules of liquid, it sticks to the raisins. When there are lots of bubbles, they lift the raisin to the surface. There the bubbles break and the raisin sinks again.



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