

Air Resistance ANSWERS

READING COMPREHENSION

1. What factors affect air resistance?

Size and Shape. Air resistance works with the surface area, the more of a surface the more air resistance.

2. What directions do the forces of air resistance and weight act on a falling object?

Air resistance pushes UP while gravity pulls DOWN. This happens when objects fall straight down. Air resistance works opposite of gravity for an object that is falling down.

3. If a skydiver jumps out of a plane, which force is greater - gravity or air resistance?

Gravity is the greater force. When a falling object is falling, it hits the ground! So gravity wins over air resistance.

4. Why does a feather fall slower than a tennis ball?

A feather has less mass and more surface area. This makes it much more affected by air resistance, and slower to fall.

