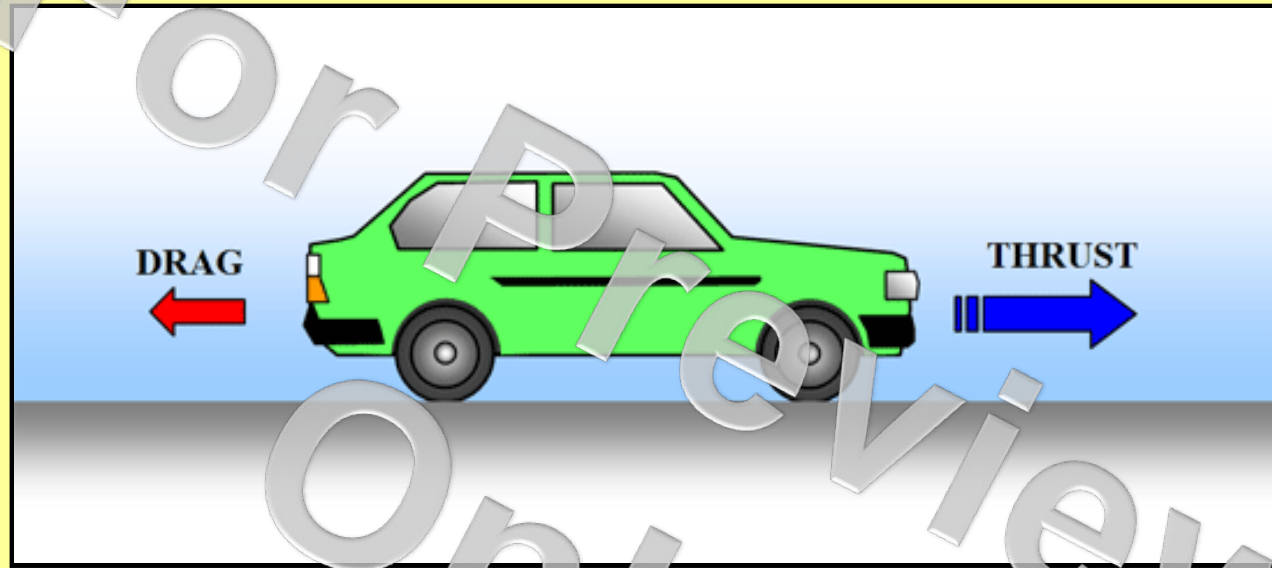
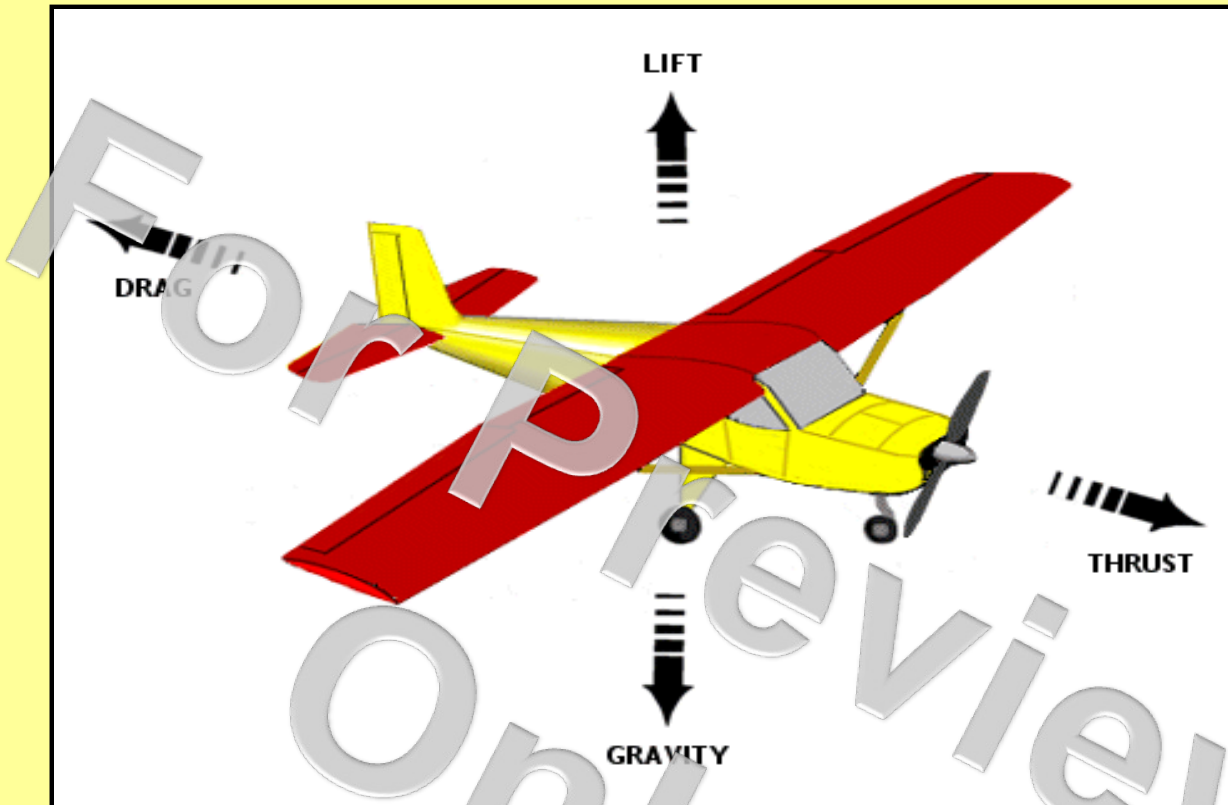




Air Resistance



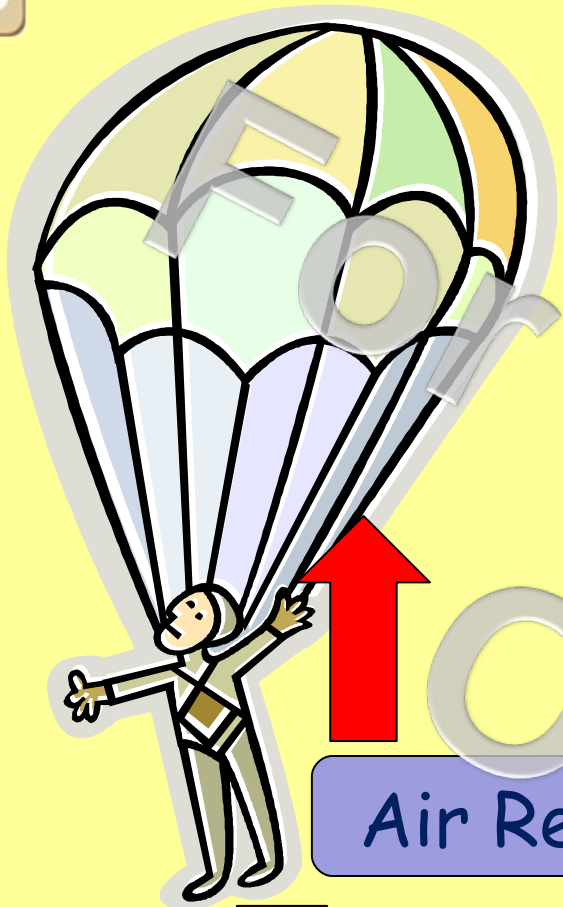
Air resistance is the force that pushes against a moving object as it passes through air. It is sometimes called **drag**. Air resistance slows the object down.



Air resistance is also a type of friction. When an aeroplane flies through the air, particles hit the aeroplane, making it more difficult for the aeroplane to move.

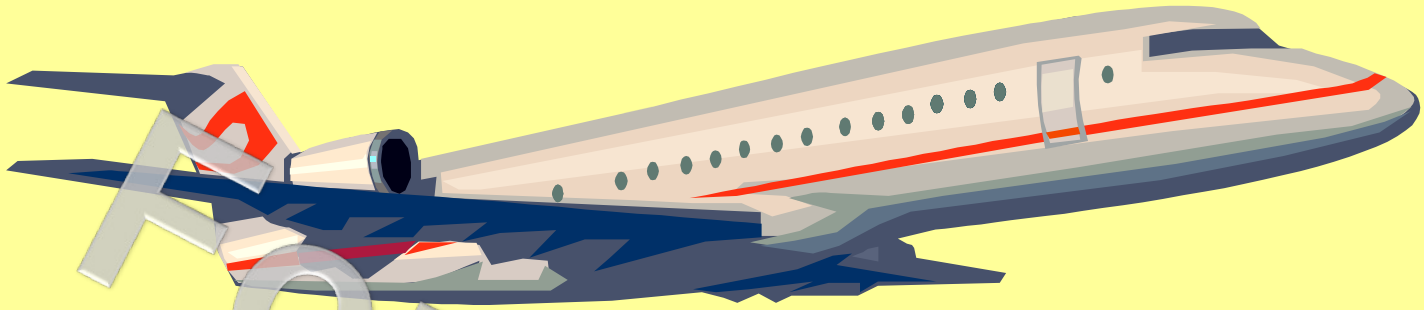


The amount of air resistance that pushes against a moving object depends on the size of the surface of the object. Have you ever tried to run holding a large piece of card in front of you, or with a parachute behind you? It is very difficult!

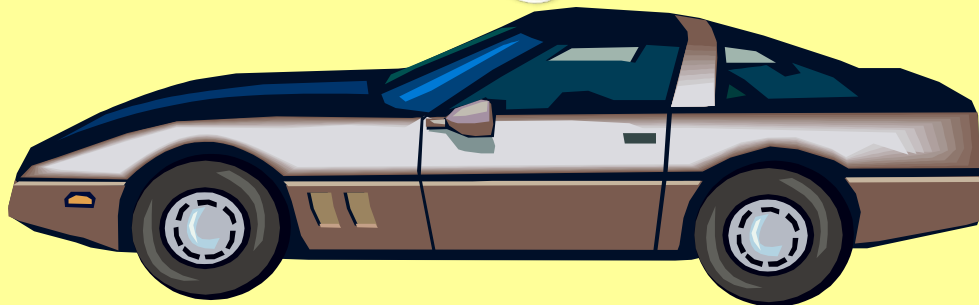


A parachute has a very large surface area. This means that the parachutist falls much slower when the parachute is opened.



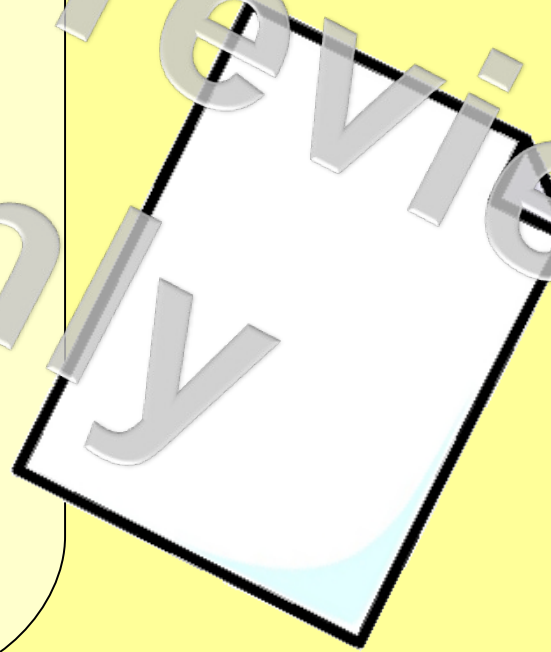


Some shapes, known as streamlined shapes, cause less air resistance than others. Aeroplanes and cars are streamlined, so that they move through the air as easily as possible.

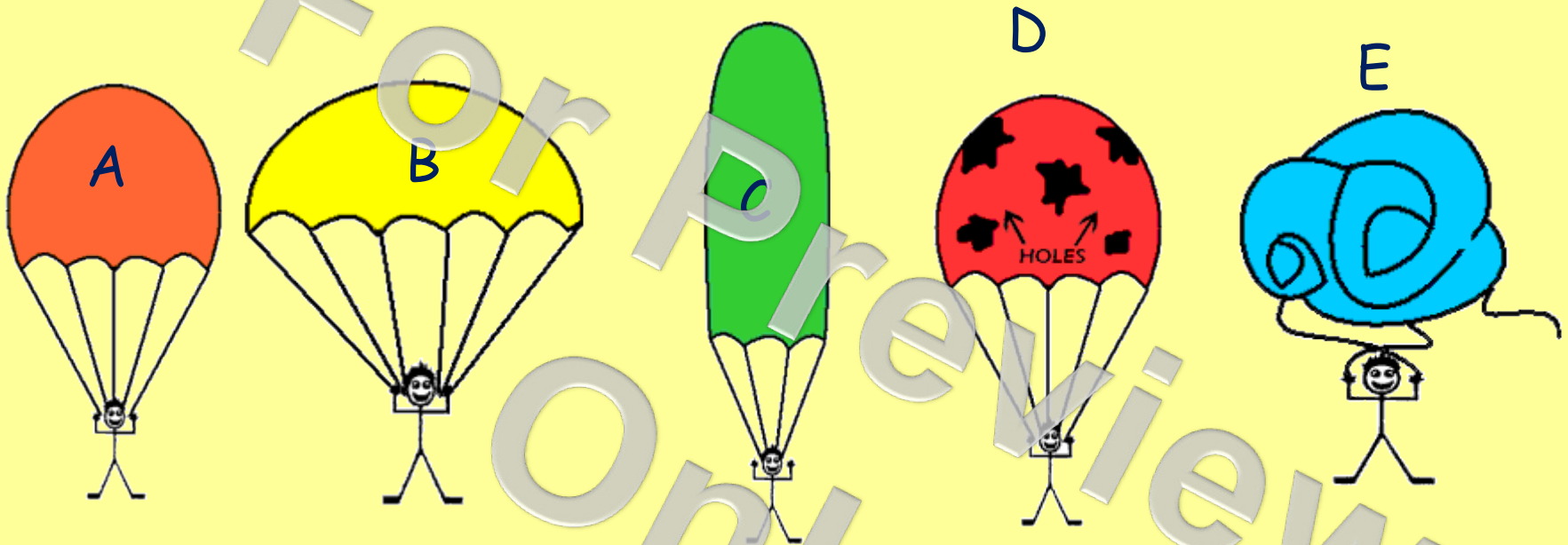




Very light things, such as scraps of paper and feathers, are strongly affected by air resistance. Heavier things have less air resistance, so they fall quicker.



Parachute Investigation



Alex has made some parachutes out of polythene. He wants to see which shaped parachute will be the most effective. Which shape parachute do you think will be the most effective?



Here are his results. Which parachute was the most effective? How do you know? Which parachute was the least effective?

