

The Balancing Can Experiment

You can do this little experiment in about 30 seconds and all you need is a can of pop! We all know that fizzy drinks aren't great for us but we can at least do a quick experiment to learn about why things balance!

What do I need:

- Just a can of fizzy drink

How do I do it?

STEP1 - Good news! The very first step is to open up your can and start drinking! Don't drink it all though...

STEP2 - Once you're down to about one third of your can remaining you'll be able to turn the can onto its side and balance it as shown.

STEP3 - It really looks as though it's going to fall but as long as you've left the right amount in, it'll balance!

STEP4 - Show your friends next time you're drinking a fizzy drink!

What's going on?



It all has to do with weight distribution. The can looks as though it'll fall over, as it's leaning to one side but it's only the bottom portion of the can that's full of water! The can is pivoting on the point that's touching the table and there's an equal amount of twisting it over and pulling it back. It only looks as though it'll fall as it overhangs more on the one side but there is very little weight in that part of the can (as it's empty!)

More Fun Please - Experiment like a real scientist!

Does it have to be full of pop?

Would water work, instead?

Can your friends tell you how this quick experiment works!

