



Friction

Most surfaces have grip. It stops you sliding about. A scientist's word for grip is friction.

Just imagine what it would be like if things didn't grip! You would fall over each time you moved and then you would go sliding into a wall.

The grip that helps to make our world work is called friction. It's another important force like gravity. Gravity makes things move; friction helps to stop things moving.

You can make friction less by polishing a surface. You can make friction more by roughening a surface. You can see examples here.

If there is a liquid, like water, between two surfaces, then friction is lower. So when the floor is wet there is less grip and people can slip and fall.





A snowboarder polishes the underside of the board so that it will slip over the snow more easily.

When two objects scrape against one another, heat can be made. This is how matches work.



This snow-clearing machine has chains on its tyres to give it better grip.

If you slide your foot over different floor surfaces, does it feel as though friction is always the same?