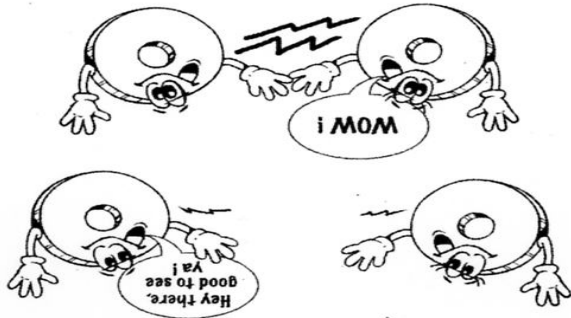
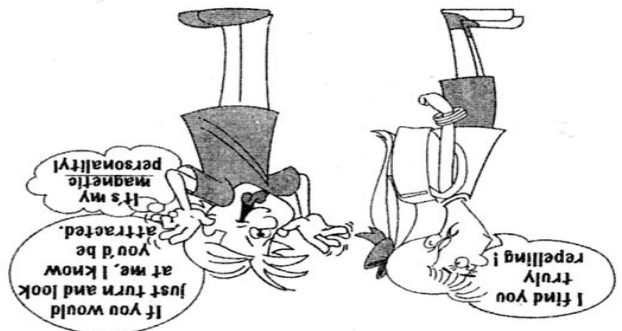
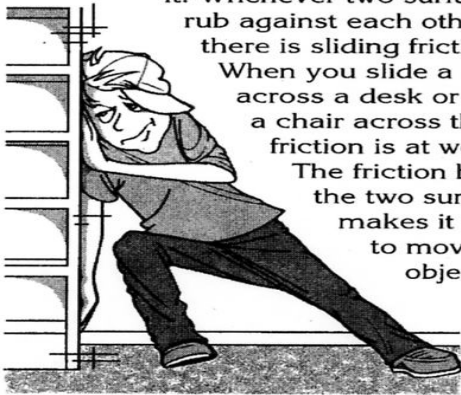


Magnetism is like gravity in that its strength is determined by distance. The closer the magnetic objects are, the greater the force. The further they are from each other, the weaker it is. Magnetism is a non-contact force. The magnets don't have to touch in order to affect each other.



Another force is **friction**. Friction is a contact force. Friction is a resistance to movement. Even though there are many types of friction, sliding friction is an easy example to help us understand it. Whenever two surfaces rub against each other, there is sliding friction. When you slide a book across a desk or move a chair across the floor, friction is at work. The friction between the two surfaces makes it harder to move the object.



Magnetism is another force. It belongs in a category called electromagnetic forces. This is a force of attraction and repulsion. Think of two magnets. If you put like poles together, they repel each other. When unlike poles are put together, they are attracted to each other. A magnetic force can also exist between a magnet and an object that contains iron.

The strength of gravity depends on the masses of the objects and the distance they are apart. When you fall, the attraction is between you (small mass) and the Earth (large mass). If you drop a ball, it also falls down even though it is also attracted to you. This is because there is a greater attraction to the Earth because of its larger mass.

