

Jump!

"Are you sure this is a good idea?" said Sir Ralph as he looked out of the plane door. The ground was a long way down.

"Of course it is," said Max. He tightened the straps on Sir Ralph's parachute and added, "Think of all the money you're raising for charity."

Sir Ralph stood in the open doorway. His knees shook with fright. "I can't jump," he moaned.

"Yes, you can," said Max, and gave him a hard push.

"Aaaargh!" screamed Sir Ralph, as he fell out of the plane. He was falling very fast.

Trying not to panic, he searched for the rip-cord. As soon as his fingers found it, he pulled as hard as he could. The pack on his back opened and the parachute billowed out.

Sir Ralph felt a jerk as the parachute opened into a huge canopy above his head. The **air resistance** on the canopy was so great that it had slowed him down. He was still falling, but not as fast.

He felt much safer now. He had time to look around and enjoy the view as he floated down to earth. "This is wonderful," he thought.

Then he saw the ground get closer and closer. He bent his knees and landed in a heap.

"You were so brave," said Isabella, as she helped him to his feet and gave him a hug.

"Yes, I was," said Sir Ralph.

Max knew better, but he decided not to say anything!



Who's first?

Identical triplets Ron, Jon and Don jump out of a plane at the same time. They all open their parachutes at the same time. Write down who you think will reach the ground first and who you think will reach the ground last.



Ron



Jon



Don

Who will reach the ground first? _____

Who will reach the ground last? _____



Air resistance slows down objects moving through air. Just as with **water resistance**, the amount of air resistance depends on the shape of the object, as well as its size.

Did you know?

Racing bicycles are designed so the riders can lean forwards over their handlebars while they are pedalling. This helps them go faster, because it reduces air resistance. The riders also wear helmets designed to give them a more **streamlined** shape.