

Do-It-Itself Balloon

You'll say it looks like a trick, but an acid reaction (not magic) is at work.

What You Need

- Small, clean empty bottle with a short neck • Funnel
• White vinegar • Baking soda • Measuring spoons
• Balloon

What You Do

Pour 4 tablespoons of vinegar into the bottle, and set it aside. Funnel a tablespoon of baking soda into a small balloon. Without spilling the baking soda, slip the mouth of the balloon onto the neck of the bottle. Now lift the balloon up so the baking soda falls into the vinegar. The concoction begins bubbling and the balloon will inflate.

Why It Works

The *baking soda* (a compound that is a *base*) and *vinegar* (a solution made with *acid* and water) *react*, forming *carbon dioxide*. This *gas* fills the bottle and has nowhere to go but up, up, up into the balloon.

