

7.E: Fluids (Exercise)

Conceptual Questions

8.1: What Is a Fluid?

1. What physical characteristic distinguishes a fluid from a solid?
2. Which of the following substances are fluids at room temperature: air, mercury, water, glass?
3. Why are gases easier to compress than liquids and solids?
4. How do gases differ from liquids?

8.2: Density

5. Approximately how does the density of air vary with altitude?
6. Give an example in which density is used to identify the substance composing an object. Would information in addition to average density be needed to identify the substances in an object composed of more than one material?
7. [Figure 7.E. 1](#) shows a glass of ice water filled to the brim. Will the water overflow when the ice melts? Explain your answer.



Figure 7.E. 1

8.3: Pressure

8. How is pressure related to the sharpness of a knife and its ability to cut?
9. Why does a dull hypodermic needle hurt more than a sharp one?
10. The outward force on one end of an air tank was calculated in [Example 8.3.1](#). How is this force balanced? (The tank does not accelerate, so the force must be balanced.)
11. Why is force exerted by static fluids always perpendicular to a surface?
12. In a remote location near the North Pole, an iceberg floats in a lake. Next to the lake (assume it is not frozen) sits a comparably sized glacier sitting on land. If both chunks of ice should melt due to rising global temperatures (and the melted ice all goes into the lake), which ice chunk would give the greatest increase in the level of the lake water, if any?
13. How do jogging on soft ground and wearing padded shoes reduce the pressures to which the feet and legs are subjected?
14. Toe dancing (as in ballet) is much harder on toes than normal dancing or walking. Explain in terms of pressure.
15. How do you convert pressure units like millimeters of mercury, centimeters of water, and inches of mercury into units like newtons per meter squared without resorting to a table of pressure conversion factors?

8.4: Pressure Due to the Weight of Fluid

16. Atmospheric pressure exerts a large force (equal to the weight of the atmosphere above your body—about 10 tons) on the top of your body when you are lying on the beach sunbathing. Why are you able to get up?
17. What are two reasons why mercury rather than water is used in barometers?
18. [Figure 7.E. 2](#) shows how sandbags placed around a leak outside a river levee can effectively stop the flow of water under the levee. Explain how the small amount of water inside the column formed by the sandbags is able to balance the much larger body of water behind the levee.

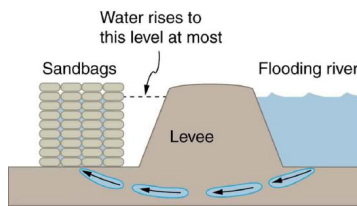


Figure 7.E. 2: Because the river level is very high, it has started to leak under the levee. Sandbags are placed around the leak, and the water held by them rises until it is the same level as the river, at which point the water there stops rising.

19. Is there a net force on a dam due to atmospheric pressure? Explain your answer.
20. Does atmospheric pressure add to the gas pressure in a rigid tank? In a toy balloon? When, in general, does atmospheric pressure *not* affect the total pressure in a fluid?
21. You can break a strong wine bottle by pounding a cork into it with your fist, but the cork must press directly against the liquid filling the bottle—there can be no air between the cork and liquid. Explain why the bottle breaks, and why it will not if there is air between the cork and liquid.

8.5: Archimedes' Principle

22. More force is required to pull the plug in a full bathtub than when it is empty. Does this contradict Archimedes' principle? Explain your answer.
23. Do fluids exert buoyant forces in a “weightless” environment, such as in the space shuttle? Explain your answer.
24. Will the same ship float higher in salt water than in freshwater? Explain your answer.
25. Marbles dropped into a partially filled bathtub sink to the bottom. Part of their weight is supported by buoyant force, yet the downward force on the bottom of the tub increases by exactly the weight of the marbles. Explain why.

8.6: Flow Rate and Its Relation to Velocity

26. What is the difference between flow rate and fluid velocity? How are they related?
27. Many figures in the text show streamlines. Explain why fluid velocity is greatest where streamlines are closest together. (Hint: Consider the relationship between fluid velocity and the cross-sectional area through which it flows.)
28. Identify some substances that are incompressible and some that are not.

8.7: Bernoulli's Equation

29. You can squirt water a considerably greater distance by placing your thumb over the end of a garden hose and then releasing, than by leaving it completely uncovered. Explain how this works.
30. Water is shot nearly vertically upward in a decorative fountain and the stream is observed to broaden as it rises. Conversely, a stream of water falling straight down from a faucet narrows. Explain why, and discuss whether surface tension enhances or reduces the effect in each case.
31. Look back to [Figure 8.7.1](#). Answer the following two questions. Why is P_o less than atmospheric? Why is P_o greater than P_i ?
32. Give an example of entrainment not mentioned in the text.
33. Many entrainment devices have a constriction, called a Venturi, such as shown in [Figure 7.E. 3](#). How does this bolster entrainment?

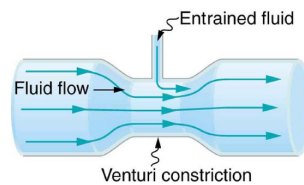


Figure 7.E. 3: A tube with a narrow segment designed to enhance entrainment is called a Venturi. These are very commonly used in carburetors and aspirators.

34. Some chimney pipes have a T-shape, with a crosspiece on top that helps draw up gases whenever there is even a slight breeze. Explain how this works in terms of Bernoulli's principle.
35. Is there a limit to the height to which an entrainment device can raise a fluid? Explain your answer.
36. Why is it preferable for airplanes to take off into the wind rather than with the wind?
37. Roofs are sometimes pushed off vertically during a tropical cyclone, and buildings sometimes explode outward when hit by a tornado. Use Bernoulli's principle to explain these phenomena.
38. Why does a sailboat need a keel?
39. It is dangerous to stand close to railroad tracks when a rapidly moving commuter train passes. Explain why atmospheric pressure would push you toward the moving train.
40. Water pressure inside a hose nozzle can be less than atmospheric pressure due to the Bernoulli effect. Explain in terms of energy how the water can emerge from the nozzle against the opposing atmospheric pressure.
41. A perfume bottle or atomizer sprays a fluid that is in the bottle. (Figure 7.E. 4.) How does the fluid rise up in the vertical tube in the bottle?



Figure 7.E. 4: Atomizer: perfume bottle with tube to carry perfume up through the bottle. (credit: Antonia Foy, Flickr)

42. If you lower the window on a car while moving, an empty plastic bag can sometimes fly out the window. Why does this happen?

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