

L40 — Vacuums and Suction

Read Aloud Passage

A vacuum is a space with less air in it than its surroundings, so it has lower pressure. Outside air always pushes toward the lower pressure of a vacuum, and that push is what people call suction.

A vacuum cleaner works this way: a fan pushes air out one side, lowering the pressure at the hose, so outside air rushes in through the nozzle carrying dust along with it. There is no true suction force pulling things in, only ordinary air pressure pushing from the higher-pressure side.

Activity 1

Match each word from the word box to its definition. Write the word in the blank.

Word Box: *vacuum suction*

1. ____ — A space with less air, and therefore lower pressure, than its surroundings.
2. ____ — The everyday name for higher outside air pressure pushing toward a vacuum.

Activity 2

Each phrase below is a fragment, not a full sentence. Add what is missing to make a complete sentence.

1. *with less air, and therefore lower pressure, than its surroundings*

2. *for higher outside air pressure pushing toward a vacuum*

Activity 3

Combine the short sentences below into one smooth sentence.

1.

- A vacuum is a space with less air in it than its surroundings, so it has lower pressure.
- There is no true suction force pulling things in, only ordinary air pressure pushing from the higher-pressure side.

Combined sentence:

2.

- Outside air always pushes toward the lower pressure of a vacuum, and that push is what people call suction.
- A vacuum cleaner works this way: a fan pushes air out one side, lowering the pressure at the hose, so outside air rushes in through the nozzle carrying dust along with it.

Combined sentence:

Activity 4

Each sentence below is a run-on. Rewrite it correctly.

1. A vacuum is a space with less air in it than its surroundings, so it has lower pressure outside air always pushes toward the lower pressure of a vacuum, and that push is what people call suction.

Correction:

2. A vacuum cleaner works this way: a fan pushes air out one side, lowering the pressure at the hose, so outside air rushes in through the nozzle carrying dust along with it there is no true suction force pulling things in, only ordinary air pressure pushing from the higher-pressure side.

Correction:
