

STRAW EXPERIMENT

Do you think you can poke a straw through a raw potato?
Let's find out!

Materials:

- ❖ Plastic straw
- ❖ Raw potato



Procedure:

1. The challenge is quite simple: Stab the straw through the potato without bending or breaking the straw.
2. As you hold the potato, keep your fingers on the front and thumb on the back and not on the top and bottom. Grab the straw with your writing hand and cap the top end with your thumb.
3. Hold on firmly to both the straw and the potato and with a quick, sharp stab, drive the straw into and partway out of the narrow end of the spud (not the fatter middle part).

How does it work?

The secret is inside the straw - its air! Placing your thumb over the end of the straw traps the air inside. When you trap the air inside the straw, the air molecules compress and give the straw strength, which in turn keeps the sides from bending as you jam the straw through the potato. The trapped, compressed air makes the straw strong enough to cut through the skin, pass through the potato, and exit out the other side. Without your thumb covering the hole, the air is simply pushed out of the straw and the straw crumples and breaks as it hits the hard potato surface.