

Ooops . . . I Burped

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Alex frowned at his younger sister Samantha after he heard her burp. He knew it was not wrong to burp. But they were at a birthday party. He felt it was not right to burp there.

“You should not do that,” he told Samantha.

“I am sorry, Kuya,” Samantha said. “I could not help burping after I finished drinking the soda.”

“What is this serious discussion about?” asked their father.

Alex told their father about what happened.

“It is okay to burp,” said Dad. “It is a natural reaction of our body.”

Samantha smiled at her brother. “You see, Kuya? It is not wrong to burp. But, Dad, why do we burp? Do we always burp after eating?”

“A burp is the sound of gas leaving our body,” said Dad as he handed Samantha and Alex some mango slices for dessert.

“Where does that gas come from?” Alex asked.



Dad said, “When we chew on food and swallow it, we also swallow some air together with the food. If we swallow more air, the longer and louder our burp will be.”

“Oh, I made a long and loud burp a while ago,” Samantha said, grinning.

“The soda you drank probably has to do something with how you burped,” said Alex.

“Your brother is right,” said Dad. “If you drink soda while you are eating, you are swallowing more gas. That gas is called carbon dioxide. Soft drinks contain carbon dioxide. And did you know that carbon dioxide is full of bubbles? Your body has to bring these bubbles out. The gas goes out of the stomach, up through the esophagus, and out of the mouth as a burp.”

“Is drinking soda the only way we get to burp long and loud, Dad?” asked Alex.

“Nope,” answered Dad. “If we eat or drink too fast, we are also sending extra air to our tummy. It also happens when we drink through a straw.”

They heard a loud voice calling everyone to join the games.

“I guess you should join the games,” said Dad. He turned to Samantha, “You should at least cover your mouth when you burp, Sam. That is the polite way of burping in a place full of people.”



Did you know that . . . ?

Cows burp a lot. Scientist found that every year, the cows in the United States burp about 50 million tons of gases into the atmosphere. That means the burps of 10 cows could power a heater or air conditioner for a year!

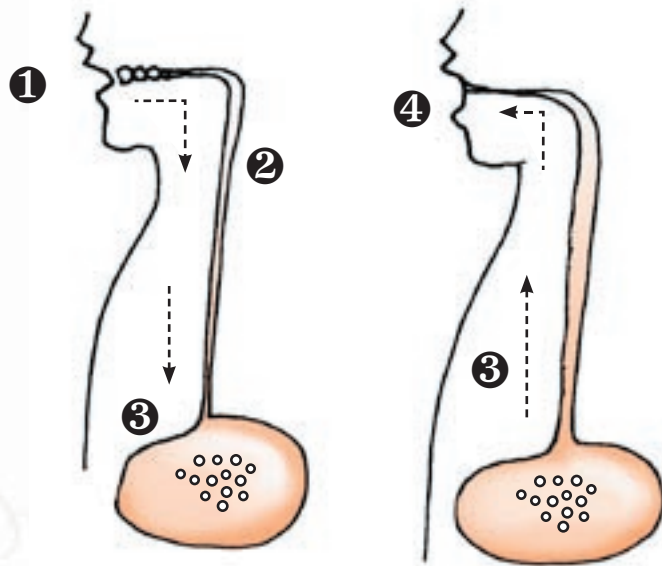
Sources

Why Do I Burp? www.kidshealth.org/kid/talk/yucky/burp.html

Why Do I Burp? www.faqkids.com/idx/16/100/Gross_Stuff/article/Why_Do_I_Burp.html

Follow the Burp

Below is an illustration of some parts inside your body. These parts are involved in burping. Identify each part, then write the name of that part in the box. Write in the boxes numbered 1 to 4 the steps involved before you burp.



1

3

2

4

Soda Burp

Does a soda bottle burp? Yes, it does! Do this experiment and learn how a soda bottle burps. This will also show you why you burp after drinking soft drinks. Invite your friends to join you in this activity.

What you will need:

New or used balloon (make sure that it is dry inside and its neck is large enough to fit over the mouth of a small soft drink bottle)

- 8 ounce soft drink
- 1 teaspoon salt
- Small funnel



What you will do:

This experiment may get messy, so it would be best to do this in the sink. If this is not possible, make sure you cover the table with sheets of old newspaper.

Are you ready?

First, use the funnel to pour the salt into the balloon. Remove the cap from the soft drink bottle. Do not shake the bottle, so its content will not spill out.

Ask your friend to hold the bottle for you. Now fit the opening of the balloon onto the bottle. Make sure that the round end of the balloon is hanging down. This way, no salt will fall into the soda yet.

Hold the balloon tightly in place on the bottle neck. Now it is time to pour the salt into the soda: just lift the end of the balloon straight up.



What Happens

Salt that is dissolved in water releases gas.

Think of the balloon as your stomach. Can you see the “burp” going up into the balloon? You will notice that foam will rush out of the bottle and into the balloon. Then the liquid from the foam will drain back into the bottle. What you will have now is a balloon full of gas.

Most of the gas in your balloon was carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is used to make all carbonated drinks. It can be dissolved in water. You have seen that all of the gas in the balloon was dissolved in the soft drink.

When you drink soda, you swallow about this much gas. This is why you feel the need to burp afterward.

1. Food is taken through the mouth. It goes with air or gas.
2. Food passes through the esophagus to the stomach
- 3a. The gas forms bubbles in the stomach.
- 3b. Gas is forced out of the stomach; it goes through the esophagus.
4. Then we burp.
1. (eating) mouth
2. esophagus
3. stomach
4. (burping) mouth

Answers to Follow the Burp