

STATIC ELECTRICITY – *answer key*

Remember that when charges are the same, they repel. But opposite charges attract!

As a group, cut your paper bag into 12 strips around 2cm wide and 20cm long.
Each student in your group should have 2 strips of plastic bag.

Materials	Attract or Repel	Why did these materials attract or repel?
charged plastic <u>and</u> charged skin	Attract	Your skin and the plastic start out neutral because they have the same number of protons and electrons. After charging the plastic, electrons (negative charge) were transferred making your skin positive from losing electrons. Opposites attract.
charged plastic <u>and</u> neutral desk	Attract	You have charged the plastic by transferring electrons to the plastic (negative charge). As the plastic gets closer to the neutral table, electrons transfer to the plastic making the table more positive than neutral. Opposites attract.
charged plastic <u>and</u> charged plastic	Repel	The 2 negatively charged pieces of plastic will repel each other. Same charges repel one another.