

Science: States of Matter

Solids, liquids and gases are called the three states of matter.

Solids

The properties of solids include:

- Solids stay in one place and can be held.
- Solids keep their shape. They do not flow like liquids.
- Solids always take up the same amount of space. They do not spread out like gases.
- Solids can be cut or shaped.
- Even though they can be poured, sugar, salt and flour are all solids. Each particle of salt, for example, keeps the **same shape** and volume.

Liquids

The properties of liquids include:

- Liquids **can flow** or be poured easily. They are not easy to hold.
- Liquids change their shape depending on the container they are in.
- Even when liquids change their shape, they always take up the same amount of space. Their volume stays the same.

Gases

The properties of gases include:

- Gases are often invisible.
- Gases do not have a fixed shape. They spread out and **change their shape** and volume to fill up whatever container they are in.
- Gases can be squashed.
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TASK

Look at the pictures on the next page. Think whether these are solids, liquids or gases. Sort them into the table below.

Can you challenge yourself and write a definition for each of these states of matter?

Solids	Liquids	Gases

