

Comparing Forces

No matter where you are in the universe, certain types of forces are present. You are already familiar with two of these forces—electric force and magnetic force.

1. Describe the behavior of two bar magnets that are positioned so that their north and south poles are nearly touching.
2. Describe a common behavior of clothes when they are removed from a clothes dryer.
3. How are these two forces the same? How are they different?

ANSWERS

1. The opposite poles of the bar magnets attract each other. If the magnets are close enough, they will move together.
2. Accept all reasonable responses. Clothes removed from a clothes dryer often stick together.

3. Accept all reasonable responses. Both forces are associated with charged particles. Both forces attract. The magnets are pulled together by magnetic forces, whereas the clothes cling together because of electric forces.