**The three states of matter:**

Everything in the world is made up of matter. The three states of matter are:

1. Solid 2. Liquid 3. Gas

In each state of matter the molecules (the small particles that make up all matter) behave differently.



In solids, the molecules hold tight together. In liquids, the molecules ‘dance’ loosely together. In gases, the molecules flow freely.

**Changing states of matter:**

States of matter can change. For example, juice can be frozen into ice blocks (liquid to solid), ice cream and chocolate can melt (solid to liquid), jelly can be made and set (liquid to solid), water can be boiled (liquid to gas).

**The characteristics of liquids:**

* Liquids have no shape of their own.
* Liquids take the shape of the container they are in.
* Liquids always try to get down to the earth.
* Examples of liquids: paint, tears, rain, juice, oil, syrup, dish soap, shampoo.

**Surface Tension:**

Surface tension is the ‘skin’ on top of water. It is caused by the molecules on top of the water pulling down to ‘dance’ with the water molecules underneath. Surface tension allows small insects like water striders to walk on water without getting wet.

**Viscosity:**

Some liquids are ‘stickier’ than others. They pour more slowly e.g. syrup, dish soap, honey. How sticky a liquid is depends on its viscosity. Viscosity is caused by how closely the molecules like to ‘dance’ with each other.