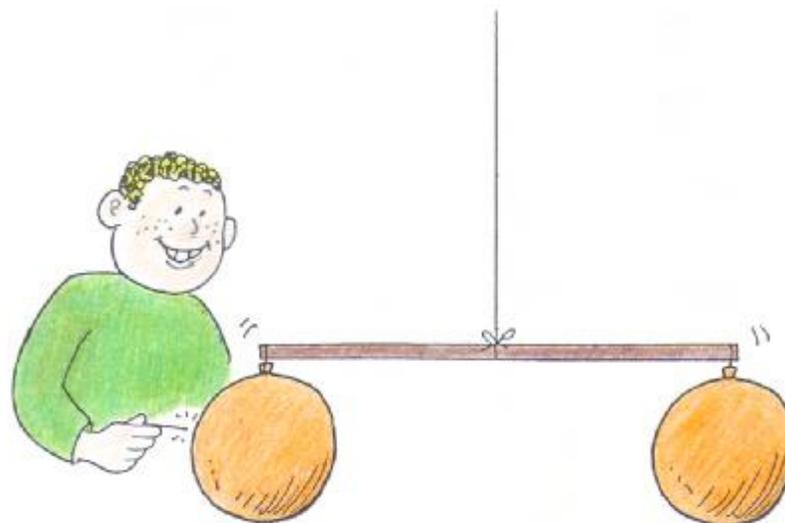


# NEXT-TIME QUESTION

A pair of identical balloons are inflated with air and suspended on the ends of a stick that is horizontally balanced.

When the balloon on the left is punctured, the balance of the stick is



- a) upset and the stick rotates clockwise.
- b) upset and the stick rotates counter-clockwise.
- c) unchanged.

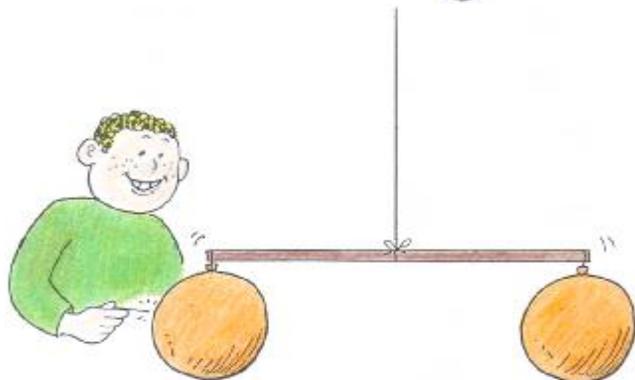
Clockwise and counter-clockwise are still understandable today. How long will this continue as more and more clocks go digital?



Hewitt  
Drewitt!



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**Answer: a**

Although there's a loss of buoyant force on the punctured balloon, that decrease in upward force is less than the weight-of-air loss, since the density of air in the balloon before puncturing was greater than the density of surrounding air.



Air in an inflated balloon is squeezed inward by the stretched rubber and is denser than the surrounding air.