

Story: “A Winter Fall”

Kenny and his mom had returned from the grocery store. It was snowing outside, so as he opened the car door, his mom warned him: “Be careful of the ice!”

Kenny grabbed a bag of groceries and walked toward the house. He didn’t notice the patch of ice on the driveway. He stepped on the ice. He slipped! He fell! The bag of groceries flew up into the air and landed — THUD! — on the ground. A brand new container of salt fell out of the bag and burst open. Salt spilled all over the icy driveway.

His mom came running over to see if he was OK. But she didn’t fall. She didn’t even slip. How did the ice not get her, too? As he got to his feet, Kenny looked down at the ground. To his surprise, the ice had completely disappeared.

What happened to the ice? Salt lowers the “freezing point” of water, which makes ice melt. The spilled salt melted the ice and saved Kenny’s mom from slipping. That’s why we put salt on the roads in winter — to prevent them from becoming icy and dangerous.

Knowing this, give the science experiment below a try!

Experiment: “Sticky Ice”

Materials:

1. Cup
2. Ice Cube
3. String
4. Salt

Directions:

1. Fill a **cup** to the top with water.
2. Place one **ice cube** in the water.
3. Lay the **string** across the ice cube and cup.
4. Sprinkle a layer of **salt** on the ice cube and string.
5. Wait one minute.
6. Carefully pick up the string by the ends — the ice cube is stuck to the string!

Explanation: The salt melts a thin layer of the ice cube. But the water cools down again, and re-freezes around the string!