**Vocabulary:** **Free Fall Tower**

dictionary2

**Vocabulary**

* Accelerate – to change speed or direction.
  + In common speech, “accelerate” usually means to speed up. In reality, any change in speed (speeding up or slowing down) is considered acceleration.
* Air resistance – the force of air pushing against a moving object.
  + Air resistance is also called *drag*.
  + Air resistance increases as speed increases.
  + Air resistance also increases as surface area (size) increases.
* Free fall – falling motion caused by the force of gravity.
* Gravity – the force of attraction between all objects in the universe.
  + Earth’s gravity causes objects to fall to Earth’s surface.
  + Gravity is only significant when one of the objects is very large, like the Earth. There is very, very little gravitational attraction between you and your couch – but there is some!
* Terminal velocity – the constant speed that an object falling through air approaches
  + At terminal velocity the force of gravity pulling down is balanced by the force of air resistance pushing up.
* Vacuum – a region that contains no matter.
  + Outer space is very nearly a vacuum.
  + The Moon has no atmosphere, so the area above the Moon’s surface is also nearly a vacuum.