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by jok church

WHAT YOU NEED: Soccer ball or basketball - tennis ball WHAT TO DO:

Go outside for this, OK? You'd get marks on the ceiling otherwise.

Hold the tennis ball directly on top of the basketball, touching.

Drop them to a driveway or other paved surface. Don't throw them down. Just drop them together.

What happens will amaze and delight you in a way that just reading about it cannot do. Barely believable, like I said.

higher than a house, like a rocket. up a basketball is a lot more than the energy needed to lift a tennis ball. When you flattened the bottom of the basketball, it snapped back with enough force to lift the

basketball. That much force can lift that tiny tennis ball way up there. And everyone who sees it will need to try it for themselves.

Dear Beakman,

How do balls bounce?

**Tatiana Junior** 

Oberlin, Ohio

P.O. Box 30177 Kansas City, MO 64112

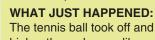
> basketball. Make sure they are touching and drop them together to the driveway. It might take a few

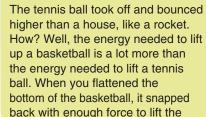
bounced about 2 inches. It bounced so badly, it's barely believable.

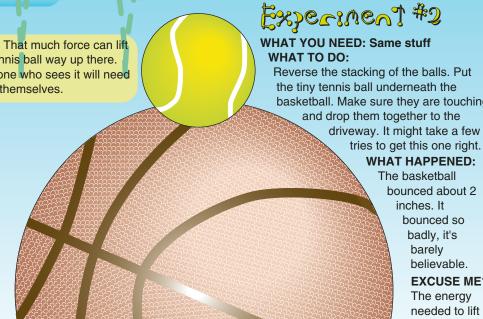
## **EXCUSE ME?**

The energy needed to lift the tennis ball is not enough to lift the basketball.









Dear Tatiana,

Bouncing is barely believable.

You flatten its bottom.

When you drop a ball, you release a lot of energy.

If the ball is brittle, it might be enough energy to shatter it. If the ball has some give, you deform it.

That ball will push back the bottom until it's round again. There's usually enough energy left over to lift the whole ball.







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