

Solids, Liquids and Gases

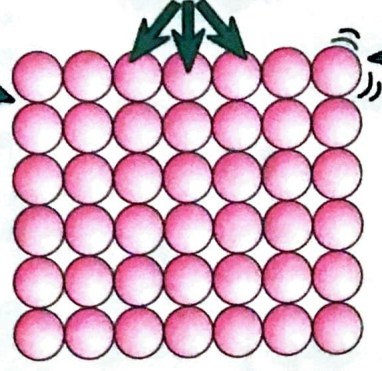
Solids, liquids and gases are called 'states of matter'.

Solids



particles very close together

regular arrangement




particles can't move much, but can vibrate in fixed positions



This means solids:

- are usually very dense 
- are not easily compressed 

This means solids:

- have definite shape 
- have definite volume 
- don't flow 

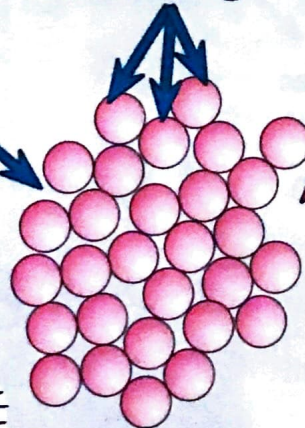
The forces of attraction between particles in a solid are strong.

Liquids


particles close together

random arrangement




particles move around each other



This means liquids:

- are fairly dense 
- are not easily compressed 

This means liquids:

- don't have definite shape 
- have definite volume 
- flow easily 

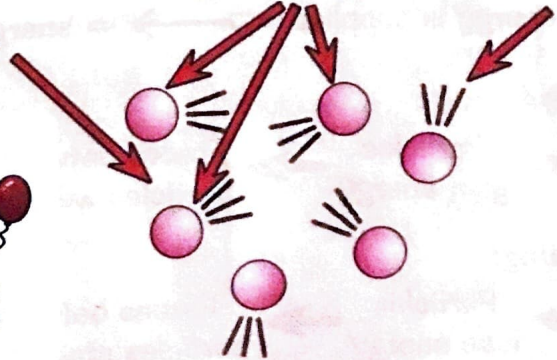
The forces of attraction between particles in a liquid are weak.

Gases



particles far apart

random arrangement




particles move quickly in all directions



This means gases:

- have a low density 
- are easily compressed 

This means gases:

- don't have definite shape 
- don't have definite volume 
- flow easily 

The forces of attraction between particles in a gas are very weak.