

Watch the video below and write a short article (120–150 words) for the Did You Know That? magazine giving advice on alternative ways to use a balloon. In your article, describe the ways of using a balloon in detail, so that the reader can understand them without watching the video.

- Word count: 150 (**fine!**)
- **advice** on **alternative** ways to use a balloon — **DONE**
- describe the ways of using a balloon **in detail** — **DONE**
- the reader can understand them without watching the video — **HALF-DONE**

Quite a nice article :) You've managed to describe the ways of using a balloon and stayed within the word limit!

Consider removing ambiguity (footnotes 7, 8) so that the reader could picture the whole process better, and take a look at the language notes below.

Tricks with balloons

For many people, a balloon is an exclusively decorative **device**¹. However, this **judgement**² is a **widespread fallacy**³. *(having read the introduction, the reader should get an idea about what to expect from the main part; here, however, he doesn't know what to expect: balloons aren't decorative? alternative ways of using them? balloons aren't the best way to decorate something? and other doubts)*

Improvised Antistress

The first uncommon way to use a balloon is to make an antistress ball out of it. All you need to do is to fill it **it** with your toothpaste, tie the end, and voila!

Quick mat

An **alternative way**⁴ to use a balloon is to **slap together**⁵ an anti-slip mat for a glass. Firstly, cut the **« tail »**⁶ of a balloon. Secondly, draw **it**⁷ on a glass.

Tap nozzle

Air balloons can even be used as a flexible lengthener of a tap. Just make a slit at the top of a balloon **and pull it on a tap**⁸. This self-made nozzle can come in handy when **washing the sink from the leftovers**⁹.

To conclude, balloons have more than one function and they are very **useful**¹⁰ for **housekeeping**¹¹.

¹ 'device' is used to describe equipment, usually electronic

² judgement — an opinion that you form about something after thinking about it carefully (sounds strange in relation to such a light-hearted topic as balloons)

³ 'fallacy' together with 'judgement' used in the context of balloons create a humorous effect; however, since the discrepancy isn't significant enough, it might easily be treated as a mistake in the style

⁴ you started the previous paragraph with 'the first' way, so it's logical to continue with 'another', not 'alternative'

⁵ slapping together requires combining several parts (sandwich, computer, cabin, etc.)

⁶ the reader might not understand which part of the balloon is the 'tail'

⁷ ambiguous reference (balloon? tail? the remaining part?)

⁸ it isn't clear what part to pull (the top / the slit?)

⁹ paraphrase using the phrasal verb 'wash off'

¹⁰ think of a more precise adjective

¹¹ sounds Russian (для домашнего хозяйства)