A Person Could Die of Thirst

What could be more annoying than to stick a drinking straw into a bottle and then find it impossible to suck any of the liquid up into your mouth.

**What to do:** Fill the soda bottle nearly full of water. Place the drinking straw in the bottle. Pull off a strip of sticky cloth or plastic tape about 8 inches (10 cm) long. Wrap it carefully and tightly around the mouth of the bottle so it forms an airtight seal around the straw. Use a second and maybe even a third strip of tape to make sure no air can get through the seal. Place your mouth on the end of the straw and begin to suck on it as you normally would. Don't take your mouth away from the straw after you begin trying to drink through it.

**Why:** It is the outside air pressure that enables us to drink through a straw. Unless air can push down on the liquid in a glass or bottle, it is impossible to drink through a straw. As you suck on the straw you lower the air pressure inside the straw. Outside pressure normally pushes the liquid up into the straw. But, since you sealed the top of the bottle shut, the outside air can't push on the water in the bottle.

**What happens:** You won't get more than just a tiny bit of water out of the straw, if you get anything at all.

**YOU NEED**
- soda bottle
- water
- drinking straw
- sticky cloth or plastic tape