
11/8/16: Stress Balls with CBTV Live

Chapter 1 - Chapter 1

Stress Balls

- [Faith] I do get kind of sweaty under these lights. - Hey everybody, it's Courtney and, - Faith, hi! - And we're coming at you live like we do every Tuesday and Thursday, which means you can write in and ask us questions as we craft something, and today is Election Day! We hope you voted. - [Both] Did you vote? - I voted. - I voted too. - For stickers. - We have stickers. - I did it for the sticker. That's why I don't know why people don't do, or why they do the mailing ballots. - You do get a mail-in sticker. - Are you kidding me? - It says "I voted by mail". I know this, yeah. - I didn't know that. - Yeah, it's true. - It might change me four years from now. - Yeah. (laughs) You still have a few more hours if you haven't done already, so make sure you take the time to vote, because it's super important. It's a very historic election this year. Um, yeah, so we thought in addition to the excitement of voting, there's also a little bit of stress. And so we're gonna show you how to make a homemade stress ball. Have you played with these before? - I've been playing with them all day long. - Our whole office has been playing with these, and we kind of did like a survey thinking about what you can fill a stress ball with. These are made with just regular grocery store dollar store balloons, and we have a few types of fillings. What do you have in the left hand? - This is the rice. - And how do you like it? - I really like this one. The sound is distracting in meetings like yesterday. - Were you using it in a meeting? - Mm-hm. - And then what's in this hand? - This one is the cornstarch and water blend that we are gonna show to you. Oh, but then this one. - Mm-hm. - Is beans. - This is black beans, so you could do pinto beans, black beans, whatever beans you happen to have in your house. - Dry beans, though. - They do have to be dried, although. - Canned beans would be so gross. - They would be so gross, but I bet they would feel really good, because how's it different than the corn starch and water? - It's basically the same as soup. It'd be a balloon of soup. - Hm. My two favorites were flour, just dry flour, and also cornstarch and water, but a less cornstarch mix. So for me this is the perfect amount of squeezey, and for Faith, a little bit more cornstarch is the perfect amount of squeezey. - Mm-hm. - So you can really customize this to your own stress levels, and for your own hand. What you'll need are a couple of balloons, which we have in our patriotic colors here. We are making the cornstarch and water combo, so I've got just some regular, grocery store corn starch here in a bowl, and Faith and I each have our own bowl of this. And a little bit of water, so the first thing we're gonna do is mix up our cornstarch and water. And Faith actually told me about the cornstarch and water mix, because it's a really weird substance, right? - Yes, it's called oobleck, and it is a non-Newtonian fluid, which, I read a lot of articles about what that means. - Uh huh. - I can't really explain it. What I can explain is, one time when I was a kid, in the mall, they had a big vat of it that was like ten feet long, so it's a solid if you put pressure on it. - Like if it has any impact. - If it has impact, but if you put gentle pressure on it, it's a liquid, which makes it extra fun for the stress ball, because when you're really stressed, and you're squeezing it, it's firm and provides resistance, but if you're mellow about it, it's liquid. - So in the mall. - Really bizarre. - They had a trough like ten feet long and a couple inches deep, and they had people running across it, and they could run on it. But if they stopped running, they would sink into it. - And I bet that obviously stuck with you since you were a child. - It was a long time ago, and I'm still pretty excited about it. - It's really super bizarre. So when you're mixing your cornstarch and water, you'll see if you stir really fast, there's a ton of resistance, and if you stir slowly, the exact same mixture feels very liquidy like

milk or pancake batter. It's kind of crazy. But it's really fun to make. So you have a little bottle of water there, and you're just gonna pour some into your cornstarch. - [Faith] And I think the ratio I like is two parts cornstarch to one part water, which makes it a bit firmer, but I think maybe you're doing more of a. - [Courtney] I'm probably doing like a half and half. - [Faith] Yeah. And also, the, so the squeezing of the stress ball is stress relieving, but this process is pretty distracting too. - Yeah, it's nice. It's just like cooking or baking. - [Faith] I did too much water. - [Courtney] That's fine, you can kind of go back and forth adding water or cornstarch until you have that ratio just right. And again, like when I drag my spoon really fast, then there's a lot of resistance and it almost looks like a solid, but if I move it really slow, it feels like icing. It's really bizarre, and super fun to play with. And you're gonna mix this up until it's pretty well incorporated and you have the consistency that you like, and then we're going to put them into plastic water bottles, because we're gonna use that to pour this mixture into our balloons. I think I'm almost at the point where I like it. How's yours looking? - [Faith] I, um, I got over excited about the water. - [Courtney] You needed to add more cornstarch. - [Faith] Look, now it's doing that thing, where you, like, you can chip it. - [Courtney] Yeah, you can chip it, but it's like liquidy on the top. It's the most bizarre thing. I think mine's pretty good. - [Faith] I think I got it. - [Courtney] I don't know if you can tell, but I'm stirring this easily, but when I, the actual way it feels, there's like, a ton of resistance on the bottom. It's really super bizarre. Alright, once that's kind of set, we've got some plastic water bottles. And you can pick an inside. These stress balls you can make with just a single balloon, or you can do a double layer to hide your balloon knot, so whatever you start with is going to be the inside of your stress ball. And I experimented with blowing this up first, to kind of widen it to make a bigger ball, but actually, the size that it naturally fills fits right into your hands, so I kind of prefer that. You wanna make sure that you put the balloon all the way over. Oh wait. Don't do that yet. We have to use our funnels. Do you have a funnel? - [Faith] I have a funnel. - [Courtney] Okay. We're actually gonna fill this water bottle first with our mixture. I was getting overzealous. - [Faith] That's so weird. Oh. Also, maybe do this outside, or with. - [Courtney] Or in your kitchen. - [Faith] Or newspaper. - [Courtney] Newspaper. - [Faith] Or in a mall. - [Courtney] Or in a mall. I feel like mine looks a little liquidy. I might add a little more. - [Faith] Mine is taking it's time. - [Courtney] I think, I feel like, when I made a ribbon like that, it was a little better. If you look at Faith's, she's got a ribbon happening here when it pours in. I think that was good. I'm gonna mix up a little bit more that's a little thicker and add it. - [Faith] What did you do that was not ribboning? - [Courtney] It just looked a little different. It was very, very liquidy. I'm just gonna add a tad more. - [Faith] Um, if you have any questions, please let us know. Also, if you have a really simple explanation for what a non-Newtonian fluid is, I would be thrilled to hear it. - [Courtney] Or if you've ever made one of these before, because I had never made one. And you had never made one, right? - [Faith] I had never made a stress ball. I just made a big mess by playing with it. You can cut it with a knife. - [Courtney] Oh, girl. - [Faith] And then it just. (blows) - [Courtney] It sounds really messy. - [Faith] You could punch it. Good for punching. - [Courtney] You could punch it, yeah. Okay, I think that's pretty good. - [Faith] Okay. - [Courtney] Once your mixture is in your water bottle, then we can add our balloon on top. Faith's is still going. - [Faith] I'm at the very end. - [Courtney] That's fine, you're close. You probably won't use all of that. Great. I think about just this little base is probably enough, but you could make it in a huge mixture so that you could do one for everyone at your election party. So we're gonna put the balloon right over the top of your bottle. Make sure it's really covering the whole mouth. And then you're just gonna pour it over, and the bottle is really key. I tried a few different things, but the nice thing about the bottle is that you can force the liquid into your balloon. - [Faith] Ooh. So, like the opposite of milking a

cow. - [Courtney] The opposite. There's some suction that happens. I think I don't have enough in mine. - [Woman] We have a question. - [Courtney] Question. - [Woman] Dawn asks how can you tell if your mixture is the right thickness? - It really depends on your preference. Faith had a thicker mixture because she likes a little bit more resistance, and I had a thinner mixture, and that's really from experimentation, but I would do something between pancake batter and milk is probably pretty good. - [Faith] Oh, that's a great way of describing it. Um, so I'm just. Bubbles are popping up as I squeeze it in. - [Courtney] Which is good. - [Faith] And each time I think I'm about to drop it. It makes me nervous. - No, that's good. Keep squeezing. I'm using the rest of your mixture because I didn't have enough in mine. - Please do. - [Courtney] Yours is really thick. - [Faith] I want to be able to walk on it. - [Courtney] Totally. I'm gonna add some more to mine in just a minute. - [Faith] There are also. Of course we made a few prototypes, but they ended up being juggled in the office. - Yeah, they're great for hacky sacking. - Getting someones attention across the office. - Yeah. - But only, not with the beans. - Even if you're not doing this version, you're just using flour or doing beans or the rice, I still think funneling everything into a water bottle first to help squeeze your contents into your balloon is a good idea. And so, I've got a little more. I'm gonna attempt to add that to my balloon because my balloon wasn't full. How's yours looking, Faith? - [Faith] So, I'm at the point where it's starting to suck it back into the bottle. It's so weird. - [Courtney] It is weird. Well, because I even tried cutting a hole at the top to let air in so you could squeeze more. I think this is pretty much the best kind of way. It's not going to be perfect. You're just gonna fill it as much as balloon wants to be filled. And that's fine. That fits kind of perfectly in your hand. - [Faith] So what I did was I squeezed out the rest of it from pinching it closed and then hoping it's not gonna. - [Courtney] Splatter all over you or me. - [Faith] Ooh. (laughs) Gust the camera guy. - [Courtney] Also a party popper. - Okay. - You're satisfying. Okay, I would squeeze it down if you can, so I can tell that there's liquid in the stalk here, or the stem of the balloon. I'm just gonna squeeze that down as much as I can. Stretch this out and tie a single knot, and then we're gonna cut off the little end past the knot to remove that sort of like, nipple, for lack of a better word there. The end of that balloon. - [Woman] We have some more questions. - [Courtney] How's that looking? - [Faith] Almost there. - [Courtney] Okay, we have some questions? - [Woman] Okay, so Renee asks how long does it last, and does it harden? - Good question. Renee's asking how do these last, and does it harden. So the cornstarch water mixture is really interesting. We left them overnight and we were playing with them again in the office this morning, and it was hard initially, but the minute you start to move it, especially slow to begin, it totally liquefies a little bit and gets really nice to squeeze. Over time, the more they're handled, the kind of less crisp they're gonna look. So your balloon might look a little more deflated than it did when you first made it, and that's fine, you can make more. And so far they've lasted over a week. - Yeah. - And they've been really super fun to play with. - And they've been subjected to a fair amount of stress squeezing so. - A lot of handling. Not that we're stressed out here. We, um, or I have mine. It's kind of oblong shaped, which is, I think, okay. I could try tying another knot in it. See what happens. How's yours look? - [Faith] So I tied the knot at the peak of the. - [Courtney] Smart. - [Faith] Bulb. - [Courtney] The bulb. I tried to do that but I keep getting stuck. Alright, there, force it. I'm gonna just trim off past my knot. Do you want to do that too? - [Faith] You scared me. I didn't realize you tied the second one. - [Courtney] I did, I tied the second. - Get it all over me. - [Courtney] I'm really happy with my consistency. Mine was a little liquidy and I added a little bit of Faith's slightly firmer. - [Faith] It's good. - [Courtney] It's like, perfect. Hers, you can see the resistance and the difference between hers and mine. Mine's squishier and hers is like, a little, has a little more resistance. - [Faith] It takes it's time. - [Courtney] I love it. -

[Faith] It's so fun. (laughs) - [Courtney] So you can add a second skin on top to cover up this little knot that you've tied. And to do that, you just take a contrasting colored balloon. This would be really fun to do with, like, marbled balloons or decorative balloons, like with stars. You're gonna take your other balloon and snip off the tail. And you might have to cut this more than once. Did I steal your balloon? No. - [Faith] No, I'm just copying you. - [Courtney] That's great. - [Faith] You have good ideas. - [Courtney] We're gonna stretch it out and put it over our squeezey ball. And if this is hard, and let's say you made a really large balloon and this is being difficult to put on the second layer, you could have a friend help you or if you didn't cut your balloon small enough like this, you could take it off, re-trim it, and put it back on. Don't attempt to cut this layer while it's on your squeezey ball. - [Faith] Now I want to, though. So you're saying I need to take it off. - [Courtney] I would take it off. - [Faith] I don't have that patience. - [Courtney] Try it. Just really depends on how big you need your squeezey ball. If you make this too short, then the squeezey ball on the inside will just squeeze entirely out. A little bit of squeezing out is great. It's kind of fun. - [Faith] (laughs) It's really fun. - [Courtney] It's really super fun. But I love the double color like this. - [Woman] We have another question. - [Courtney] We have another question. - [Woman] Karina wants to know, do they freeze? - Do they freeze? Can you freeze an oobleck? - Well, as a non-Newtonian fluid, um, I don't know what that means. Non-Newtonian. I think so. I don't think you should, though. - Yeah. - Not advisable. - It wouldn't be squishy any longer if it does freeze, and I'm not sure what it would do to the rubber over time to have it be cold and then room temperature. If you think about erasers that have been like, left in the sun, they go to use, like you're always hunting for an eraser. - Yeah, yeah, yeah. - And then you go to use it and it's all disgusting and doesn't work and um. - But now. - Now you're curious? - We're gonna, we'll try it. - And let you know. - We'll let you know. Ask us the question in a couple weeks when we take them out of the freezer. - Yeah. - [Courtney] I love the one I made. It's like the perfect consistency, yes. - [Faith] Should we judge each other's? - [Courtney] Yeah. - [Faith] I like mine better. - Yeah, Faith's has a ton of resistance. It's more like squeezing, like, peanut butter and cement. - Do you think it's because I'm a knitter and therefore have. - [Courtney] Stronger hands. - [Faith] Yeah. - Yeah. - In it a little bit more. - I think I like the satisfaction of being, to like, able to squeeze the heck out of it. Like, get right down to it. - Okay. - [Courtney] I'm not sure. It's really interesting to, um, the ones with more cornstarch, if you squeeze them really quickly, you can feel the cornstarch hardening in the center. And then if you go back and squeeze it again softly then there's no hard corn starch in there. Uphold non-Newtonian principals. - We're gonna keep looking into this. - We're really curious about it now. So whether you're gonna make ones with the cornstarch mixture we just showed you, or flour with no water. You can also try some. - [Both] Beans. - Not from a can. - Nope. - Just dry, dry rice, dry beans. Experiment which, like, feeling you like for your stress level, and then hopefully you'll be watching all of the tallies tonight. - And we'll be less stressed. - And we'll be less stressed. Or we'll help you cope with your stress. - Mm-hm. - We'll see you guys on Thursday for our next live shoot.