Dancing Conversation Hearts

Getting Ready:

* 4 Alka Seltzer tablets.
* 1 cup of sparkling water {ordinary tap water works too}
* A box of conversation hearts
* A glass

We tried this experiment several times using different numbers of Alka Seltzer tablets and either tap or sparkling water. Since conversation hearts are a little heavy candy-wise, the winning combination was a whopping four Alka Seltzer tablets and some sparkling water. It really took their shimmies and shakes to the next level. It’s not required though – the science activity worked with ordinary tap water too.

Simply crush up the Alka Seltzer tablets and placed them in the bottom of a glass. Pick out a handful of favorite conversation hearts and place them on top of the tablets. Grab the sparkling water bottle with both hands and slowly pour in about 1 cup of water.

## The Science Behind It

Similar to the reaction that occurs when you mix baking soda and vinegar, when you pour water on the Alka Seltzer tablets, carbon dioxide gas bubbles begin forming.  These gas bubbles stick to the conversation hearts, pulling them up as they rise to the surface. When the gas bubbles burst, the hearts fall back down until enough bubbles form to pull it back up again. The up and down movement makes it appear as though the hearts are dancing.