

Why do cats always land on their feet?



Have you ever seen a cat jump down from a high shelf? It twists in the air, and plop! It lands on its feet. How does a cat always land on its feet?



Why?

1. It starts inside the ears.

Deep in each ear there are tiny tubes filled with liquid. When a cat tips or turns, the liquid moves, and tells its brain which way is up and which way is down.

2. Head first, then the front half, then the back half.

The cat turns its head, so its eyes can see the ground. Next it twists the front half of its body, so the front paws point down. Then it twists the back half, to catch up.

3. A super bendy back, and legs like a parachute.

A cat's backbone bends and twists much more than yours, so its body can turn in the middle, like a spring. Then it spreads its legs out wide, like a little parachute, and its bendy legs fold like springs to soften the bump.

Try it! Balance like a cat

You need: just you

1. Stand on one leg.
2. Now close your eyes.
3. Is it harder?

What happened? Your eyes help your ears keep your balance, just like a cat's.

Video + more questions:
whywhywhykids.com/catfeet



scan with a grown-up