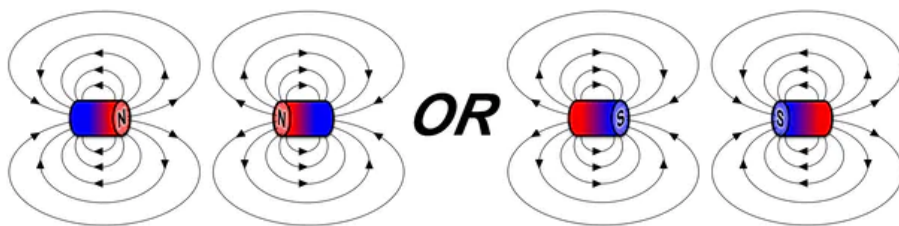


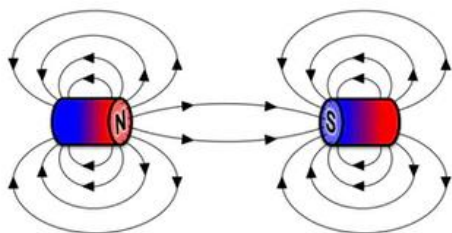
Every magnet has two sides: a north pole and a south pole. They are called these names because if you hang a magnet from a thread, the magnet's

Magnets don't always stick together.

If you hold two magnets the *wrong way* around, they push apart - they repel! In other words, if you hold two magnets together so the same poles are close together (two norths OR two souths), they repel. It feels like the magnets are surrounded by an invisible rubber layer pushing them apart. That invisible layer is called a magnetic field.



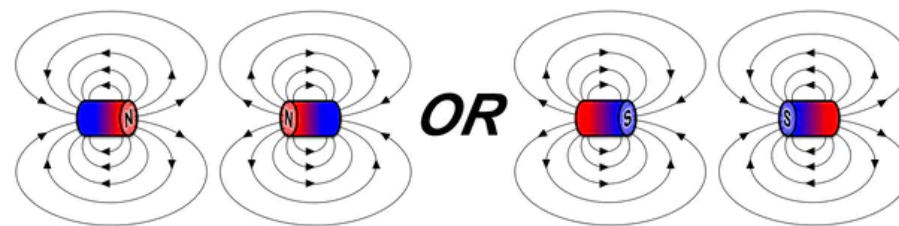
It's only when you hold unlike-poles together (a north pointing to a south) that magnets stick together (they are attracted). Now, the magnetic field acts like a stretched rubber band pulling the magnets together. (Be careful; two strong magnets can pinch your skin).



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