What is friction?

Friction is a force between two different surfaces that slide against each other.

Have you ever helped move a table in your classroom? Friction is the force acting against you which means you have to push hard when moving the table.

The smoother the surface, the less friction there is. So it would be easier to move the table across an ice rink than it would be to move it across the bumpy playground surface.

Have you noticed that car tyres have ridges in them? This means the tyres aren't smooth. Friction is useful because it helps to stop cars from skidding all over the road.

If you look at the bottom of your shoe, you will see a pattern. If your shoes have a bumpy pattern on the sole, you are using friction! The pattern creates friction which helps stop you from slipping over.

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