

Competing Explanations

Explanation 1 (E1)

Step 1: IF someone blows into a balloon, THEN it can cause the balloon to inflate.

Assumption: Blowing air into a balloon increases the amount of air inside it, leading to inflation. **Step 2:** IF the balloon inflates, THEN it can cause the balloon to

expand. **Assumption:** When a balloon inflates, it stretches and expands in

Therefore, since I blew into the balloon, it caused the balloon to inflate, which resulted in its expansion.

Explanation 2 (E2)

Step 1: IF a balloon is pricked, THEN the balloon may deflate. **Assumption:** Pricking a balloon can cause it to lose air and deflate.

Step 2: IF a balloon deflates, THEN there is a decrease in air pressure inside the balloon.

Assumption: When a balloon deflates, the air pressure inside the balloon decreases.

Step 3: IF there is a decrease in air pressure inside the balloon, THEN the external air pressure will cause the balloon to expand. **Assumption:** When the air pressure inside a balloon is lower than the external air pressure, the balloon will expand.

Therefore, since the balloon was pricked, it may have deflated, resulting in a decrease in air pressure inside the balloon, causing the external air pressure to make the balloon expand

