

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Zooming Through the Air: How Houseflies Move



Houseflies are some of the fastest and most agile insects you'll find buzzing around. Their movement is a mix of flying, climbing, and walking, making them highly adaptable to different environments.

Houseflies are best known for their ability to fly. They use their two large, transparent wings to zip through the air at incredible speeds. A housefly can fly at speeds of up to 5 miles per hour, which

is very fast for such a small insect! What makes their flying even more impressive is their ability to quickly change direction. This helps them avoid predators and navigate through tricky spaces with ease.

Behind their main wings, houseflies have tiny structures called halteres. These halteres act like stabilizers, helping the fly balance while making sharp turns or hovering in place. This special feature allows houseflies to perform aerial acrobatics that leave predators like frogs or birds struggling to catch them.

But houseflies don't just fly. They are also skilled climbers and walkers. They use their six legs, each equipped with tiny claws and sticky pads, to walk on almost any surface—even walls and ceilings! The sticky pads on their feet create enough grip for the flies to hang upside down without falling.

Houseflies' incredible movement is not just about speed; it's also about efficiency. They use their large, red eyes to see nearly 360 degrees around them, making it easier to spot obstacles or threats. This wide vision, combined with their quick reflexes, allows houseflies to dodge swatting hands or predators in the blink of an eye.

In the wild, these abilities help houseflies survive and thrive in a world full of challenges. Their flying, climbing, and sharp reflexes make them one of the most successful insects on Earth.