

This is the Pipettes Blooper Reel: "What can go wrong and how to avoid it.

See what happens when our chemist does not keep the pipette tip below the surface while sucking liquid into the pipette, thereby sucking air into the pipette as well.

We have bubbles of air in the pipette, taking up space that should be filled with liquid.

This causes an inaccurate measurement.

Whoops. Too much chemical was sucked into the pipette, and now the bulb (or the roller) is filled with liquid.

This contaminates the inside of the bulb and will also create a mess the next time the chemist tries to squeeze air out of the bulb.

Here the scientist did not expel air from the bulb before attaching it to the pipette.

Squeezing the bulb now forces air into the beaker. That can disturb solids at the bottom and cause them to mix up into the liquid.

You lose precious time, waiting for the solids to settle back down.

Worse than that, the spattering of chemicals from the flask or pipette might be a safety hazard.