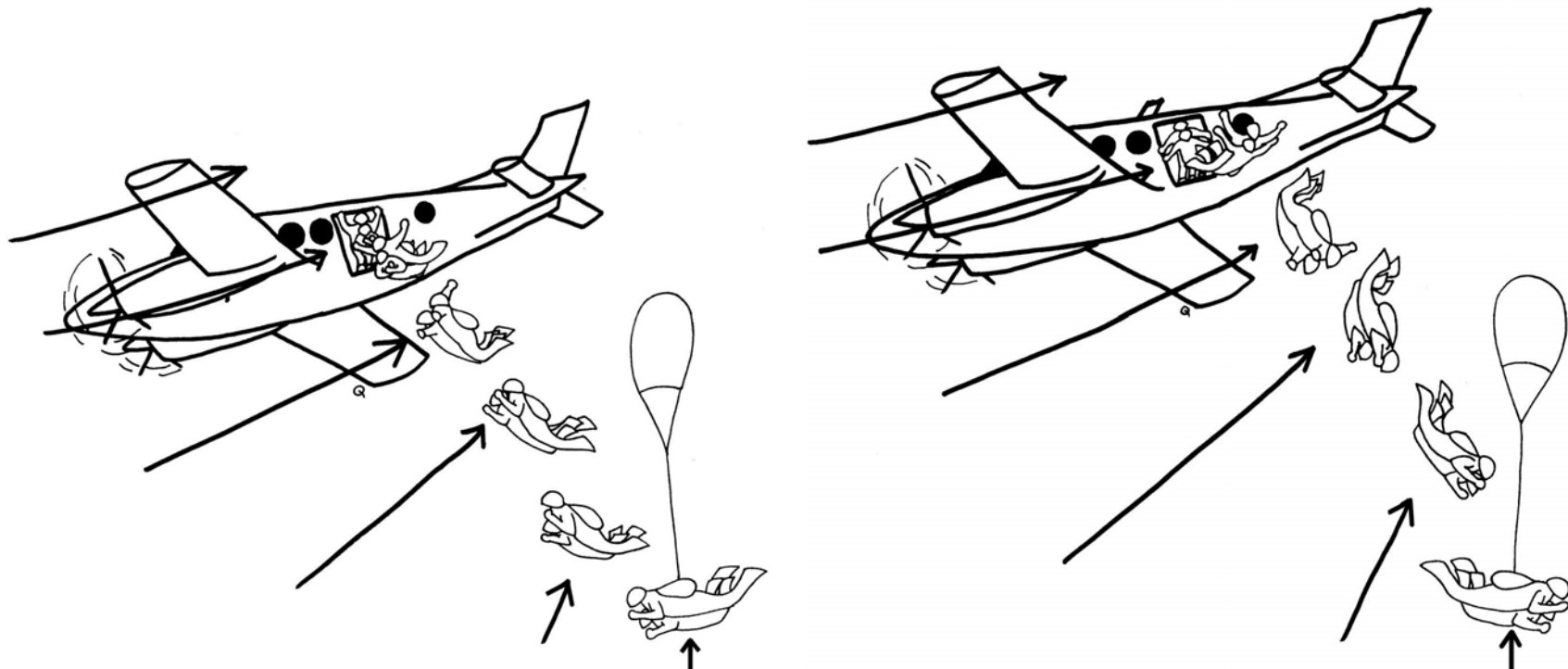


# Tandem Exits and the “Relative Wind”

The first few seconds after we exit an airplane we are not really falling toward the earth. What we think is "down" is actually toward where the wind is coming from relative to our bodies. Because the airplane is flying horizontally in relationship with the earth, the "relative wind" is parallel to the ground, (or from the front of the airplane).

Therefore, the first few seconds after exit, we are in a way *skydiving sideways*. Depending on how you exit and what you see during the exit, this sideways motion may make you think you are doing a somersault or some other maneuver.

But don't be concerned! **Simply do a good arch** and gravity will take care of the rest. After a few seconds you will be falling *exactly* toward the earth.



The illustrations above show two different kinds of exits. The arrows show where the “relative wind” is coming from at different times during the exit. Any exit where your belly is basically facing the relative wind is a good exit.