1. Try pricking an inflated balloon with a needle near its mouth or far end. Because the rubber is thick at these points the balloon does not burst.

2. However if you poke the balloon with a needle near the highly stretched centre it will burst with a loud bang!

3. Stick cello tapes across two diametrical points of the balloon. Poke a sharp cycle spoke through. The balloon will not burst. The tape prevents the balloon skin from retracting and bursting.