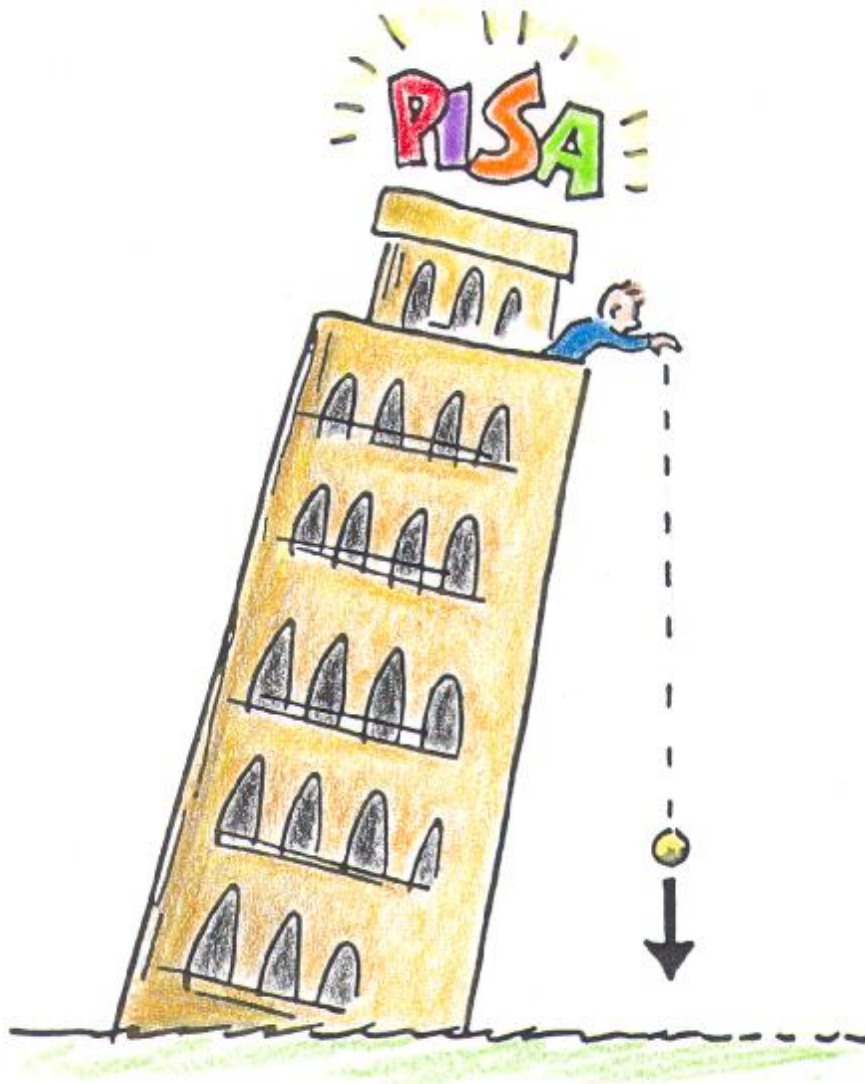


# NEXT-TIME QUESTION

CONCEPTUAL Physics



For every force there exists an equal and opposite force. Consider action and reaction forces in the case of a rock falling under the influence of gravity. If action is considered to be the force of gravity on the rock, can you clearly identify the reaction force?



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Answer: Falling rock pulling up on Earth.

The recipe for action-reaction forces is simple enough: If A exerts force on B, then B exerts force on A. It's important to clearly state A and B. In this case, A is Earth pulling down on the falling rock, B. Reaction is then the falling rock, B pulling up on Earth, A. Does this mean that the acceleration of the rock and Earth should be the same? Not at all, but only because Earth's mass is so much greater than that of the falling rock.

