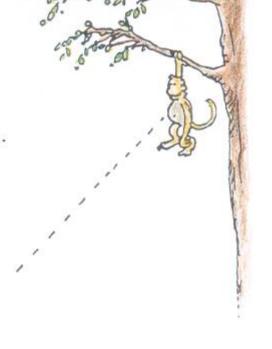
A zookeeper devises a rubber-band gun to shoot food to a monkey who is too shy to come down from the trees.

If the monkey does not move, should the zookeeper aim above, at, or below the monkey?

If the monkey lets go of the branch at the instant the zookeeper shoots the food, should the zookeeper aim above, at, or below the monkey to get food to the monkey in midair?

BANANA



CONCEPTUAL Physics

Next-Time Question

LINE OF SIGHT (DASHED LINE)

FOR RELATIVELY HIGH-SPEED
SHOT, BOTH MONKEY AND
FOOD FALL TO HERE

BOTH MONKEY AND FOOD
FALL TO HERE FOR
MEDIUM-SPEED
SHOT

PLACE WHERE BOTH
MEET FOR LOW-SPEED
SHOT

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Answers:

When the monkey remains at rest, the zookeeper should aim above the monkey to compensate for gravity. But when the monkey drops, the zookeeper should aim directly at the monkey. Because of gravity, the food (like any projectile) will fall below this direct straight line. How far below? As far below as the monkey falls in the same time. So the monkey and the food will fall the same vertical distance in the same time, and midair contact is made.

CONCEPTUAL Physics