A photograph of a white boat on a body of water. A wooden post is mounted on the boat, with a green square sign on top that has the number '3' written on it. The background shows a vast expanse of blue water under a clear sky.

**Chapter 7:  
Newton's Third Law  
(Action and Reaction)**

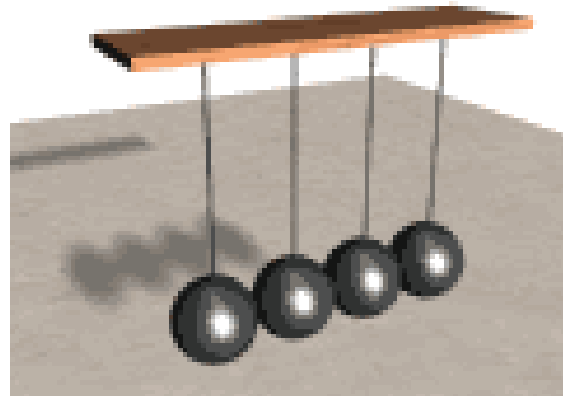
# Chapter 7: Newton's Third Law or Motion

## Action and Reaction

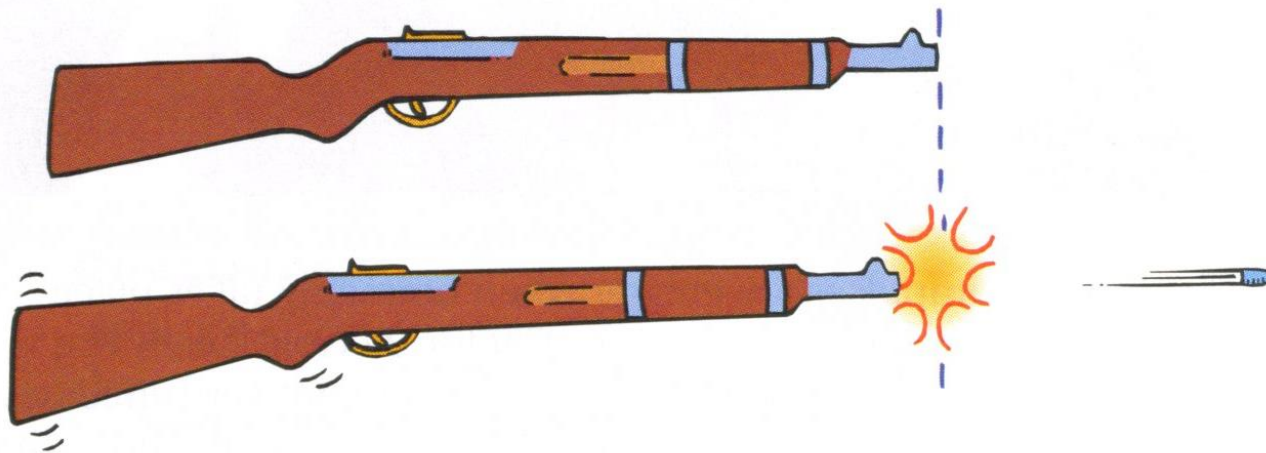
### I. Forces and Interactions (7.1)

A. Force is part of a **mutual action**– an **interaction**

1. Acts between one thing and another
2. Each exert a force on the other object



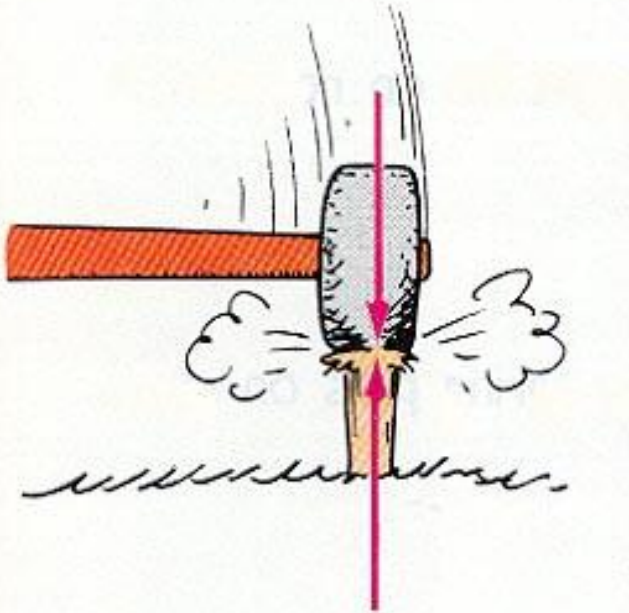
B. Always a **pair** of forces— led Newton to his third law (law of action and reaction)



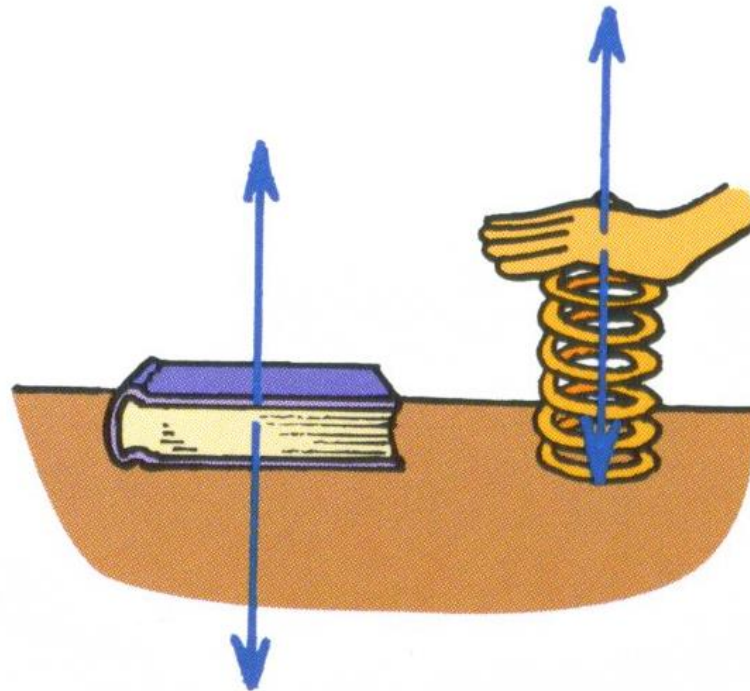
## II. Newton's Third Law (7.2)

A. Third law states:

***Whenever one object exerts a force on a second object, the second object exerts an equal and opposite force on the first object***



1. One force called **action force** and the other is called the **reaction force**
  - a. It doesn't matter which we call action or reaction force
  - b. They are "**partners**" in single interaction
  - c. Neither force exist without the other



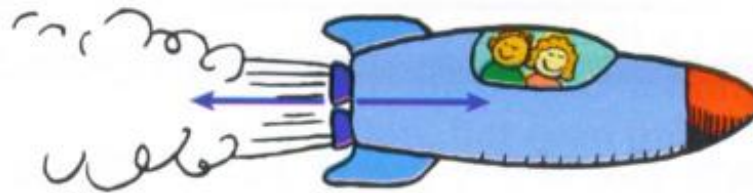


d. They are **equal in strength** and **opposite in direction**

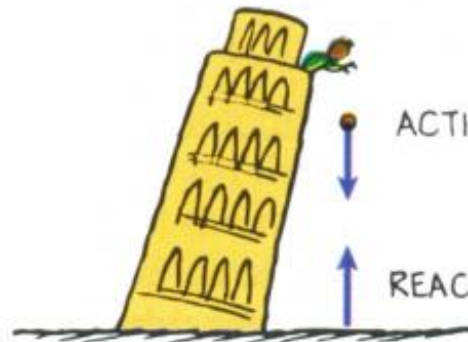
(“To every action there is always an equal opposing reaction”)



ACTION: TIRE PUSHES ROAD    REACTION: ROAD PUSHES TIRE



ACTION: ROCKET PUSHES GAS    REACTION: GAS PUSHES ROCKET



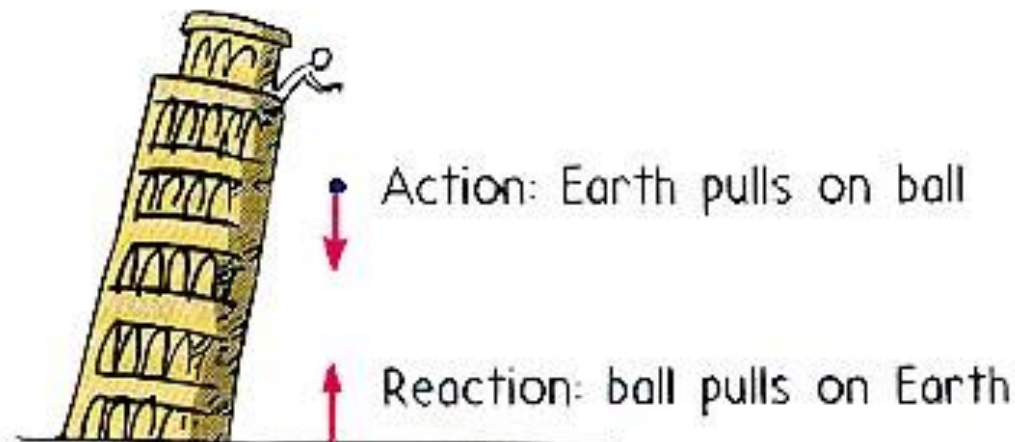
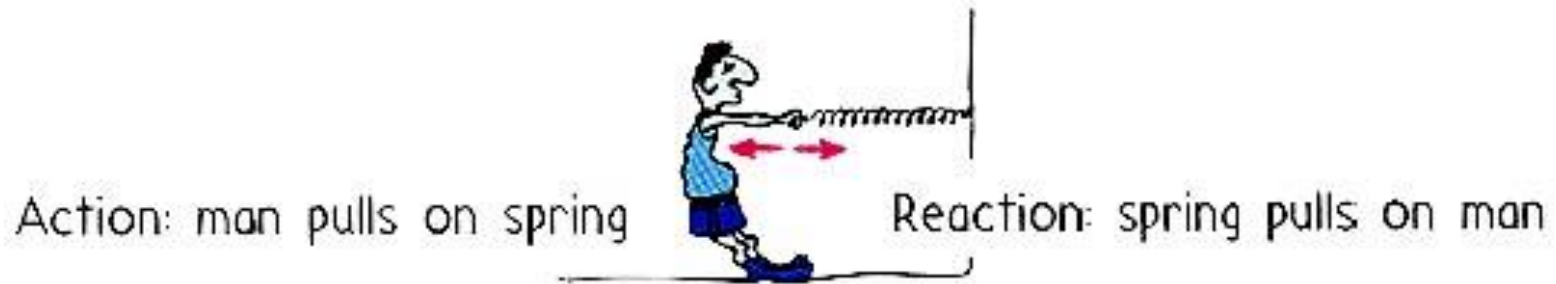
ACTION: EARTH PULLS BALL

REACTION: BALL PULLS EARTH

B. Without the **action force** there cannot be **reaction force**

1. Thus **no** resulting **forward motion**

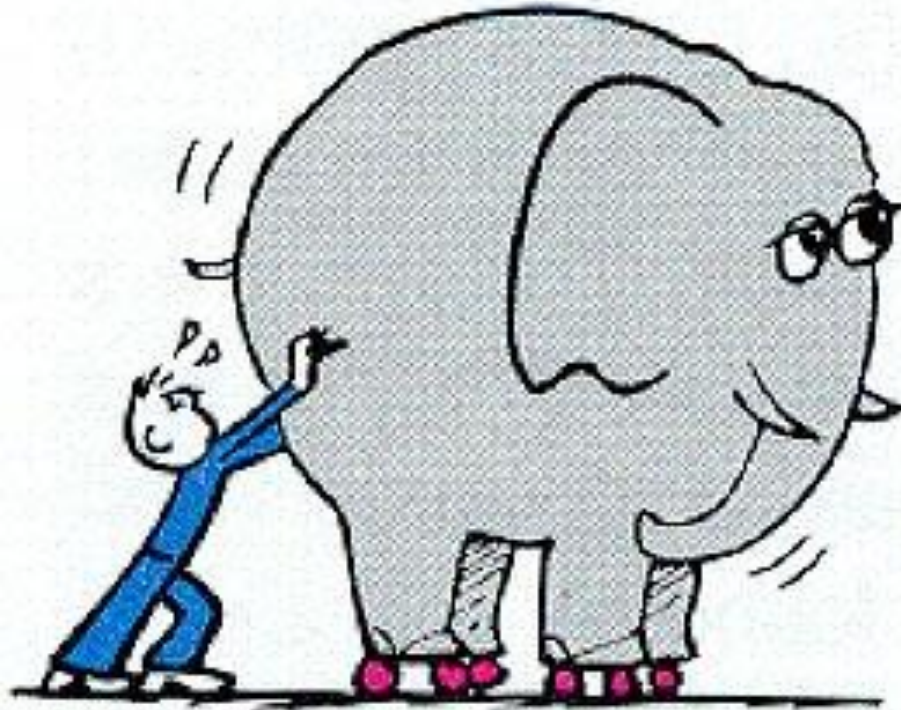
2. Forces include **contact** and **long-range forces**



### III. Identifying Action and Reaction (7.3)

#### A. Identifying **action** and **reaction** pair

1. Can be difficult to identify sometimes





a. Start by identifying the **interaction** (e.g. Object A interacts with object B)

1). Action: Object A exerts a force on object B

2). Reaction: Object B exerts a force on object A

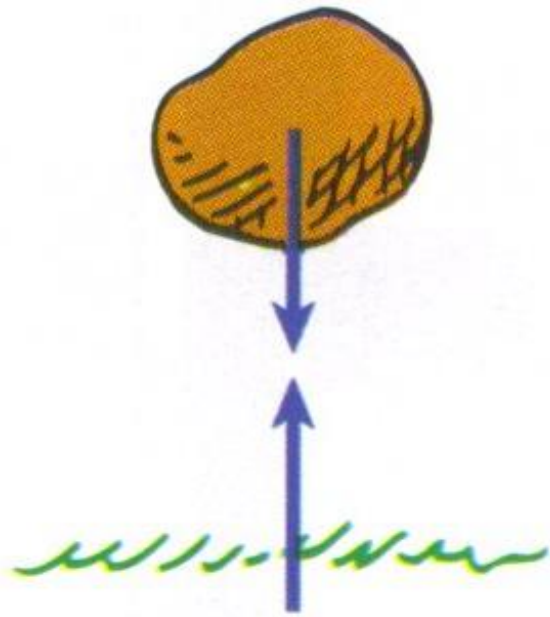


## IV. Action and Reaction on Different Masses (7.4)

### A. Interaction between falling boulder and the Earth

1. Forces are **equal in strength and opposite in direction**

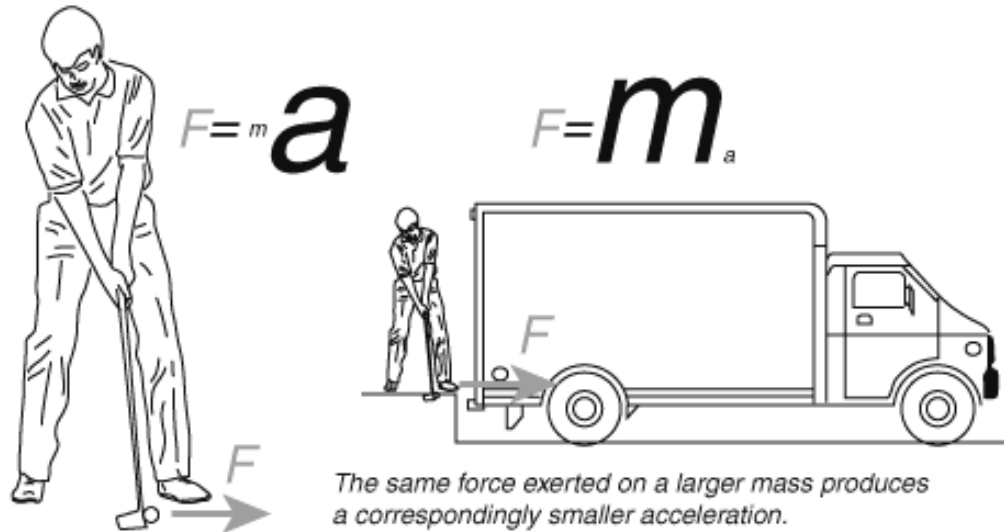
- ~ Boulder falls to Earth  
Earth falls to boulder



2. **Forces** between Earth and boulder are **equal**, but **masses not**

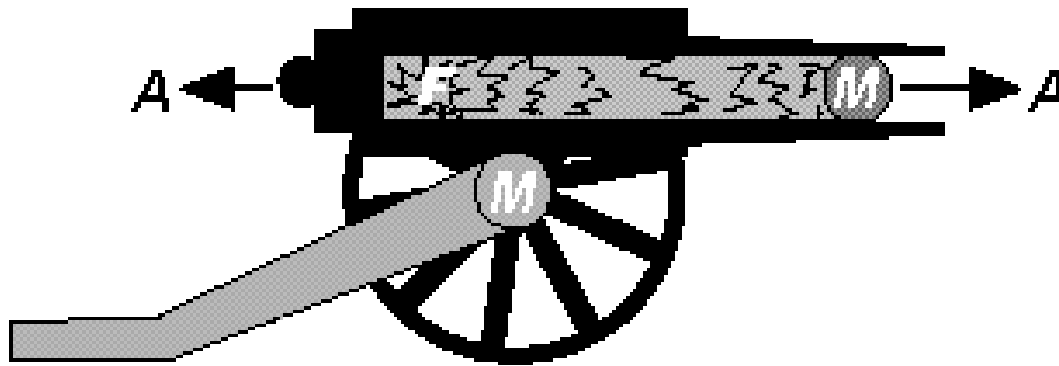
a. **Newton's second law** states that **acceleration** is not only **proportional to net force**, but also **inversely proportional to mass**.

b. Earth's **large mass**— infinitesimally **small acceleration**



## B. Cannon example

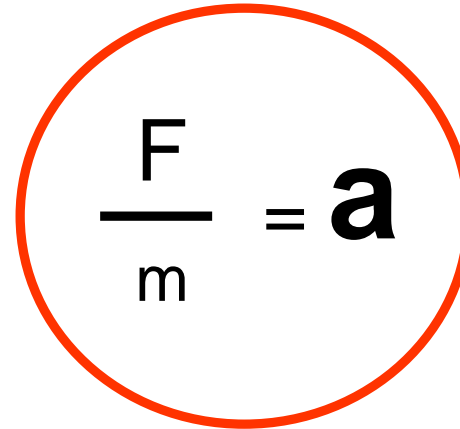
1. Interaction between cannon and cannon ball is exactly equal in magnitude and opposite in direction
2. Must consider **Newton's Second law**



$$a = \frac{F}{m}$$

a. Cannonball

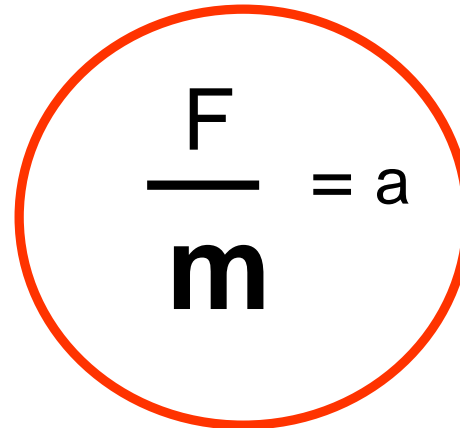
$$\frac{F}{m} = a$$



The equation  $\frac{F}{m} = a$  is enclosed in a red circle. The variable  $a$  is rendered in a bold font.

b. Cannon

$$\frac{F}{m} = a$$



The equation  $\frac{F}{m} = a$  is enclosed in a red circle. The variable  $m$  is rendered in a bold font.

$$F_{\text{cannonball}} = F_{\text{cannon}}$$



## V. Defining Systems (7.5)

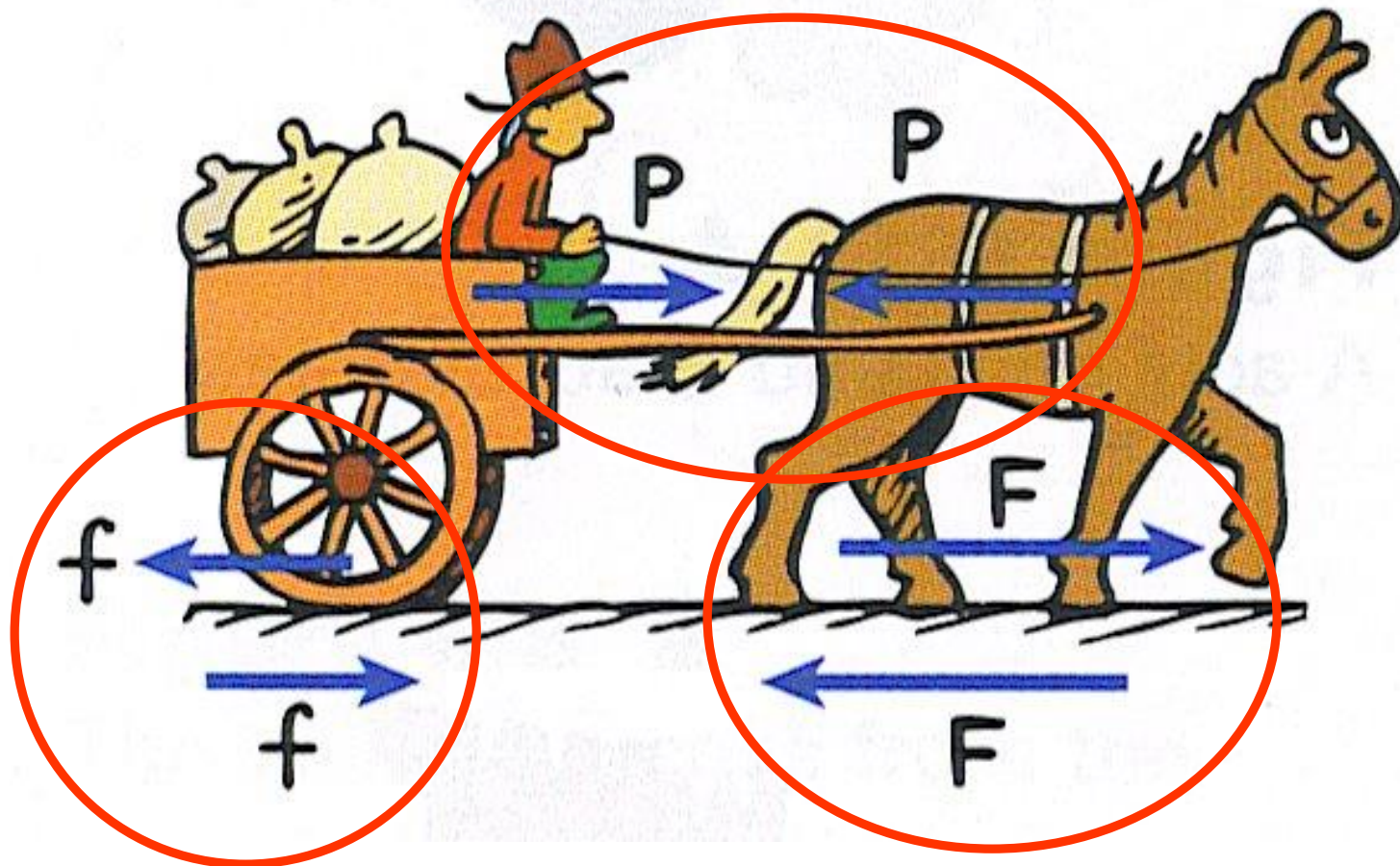
A. If action and reaction forces **are internal to a system**, they **cancel** each other and produce **no acceleration of the system**



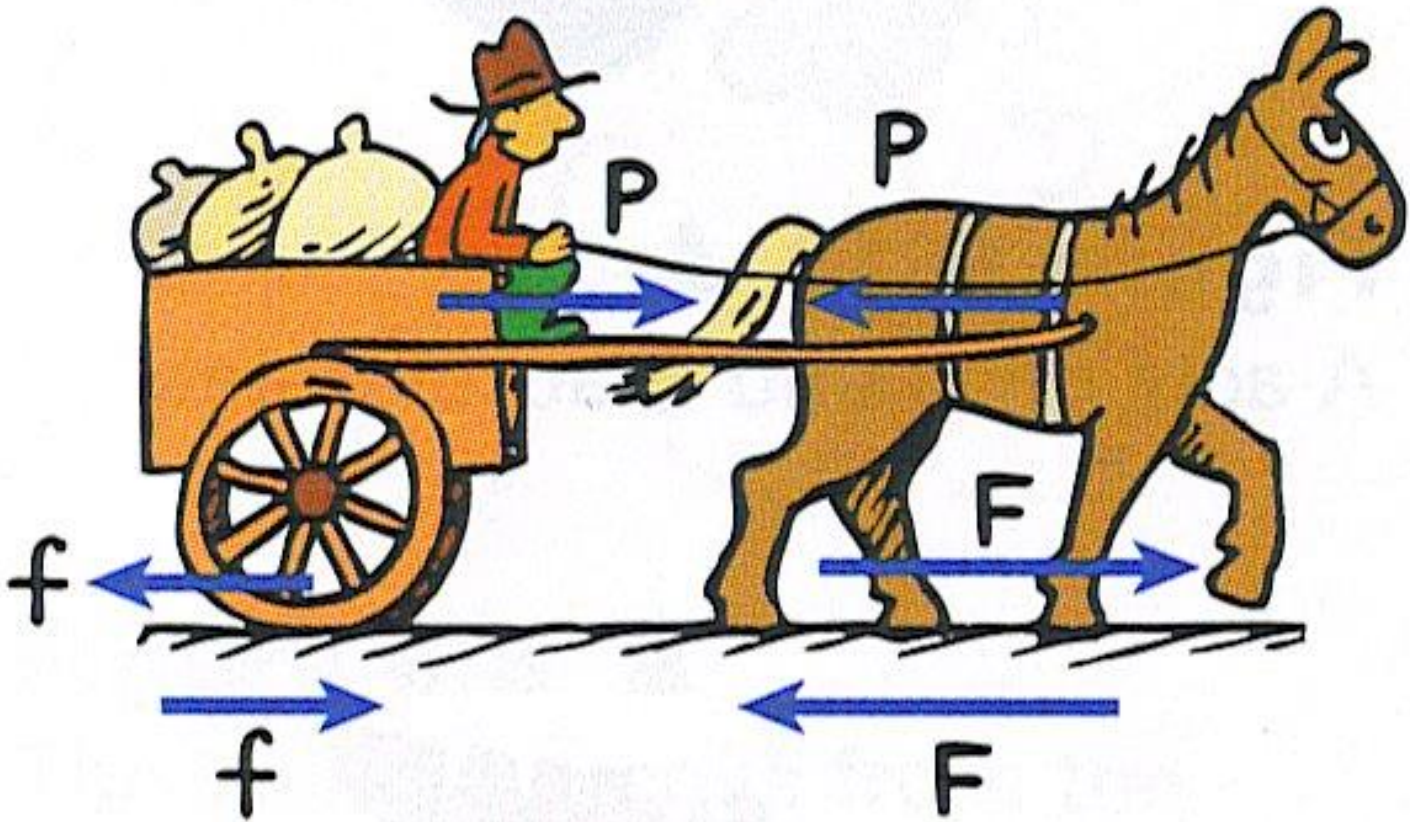
B. Action and reaction forces **do not cancel** each other when **either is external to the system** being considered.

## VI. The Horse-Cart Problem (7.6)

A. Can look at from three points of view

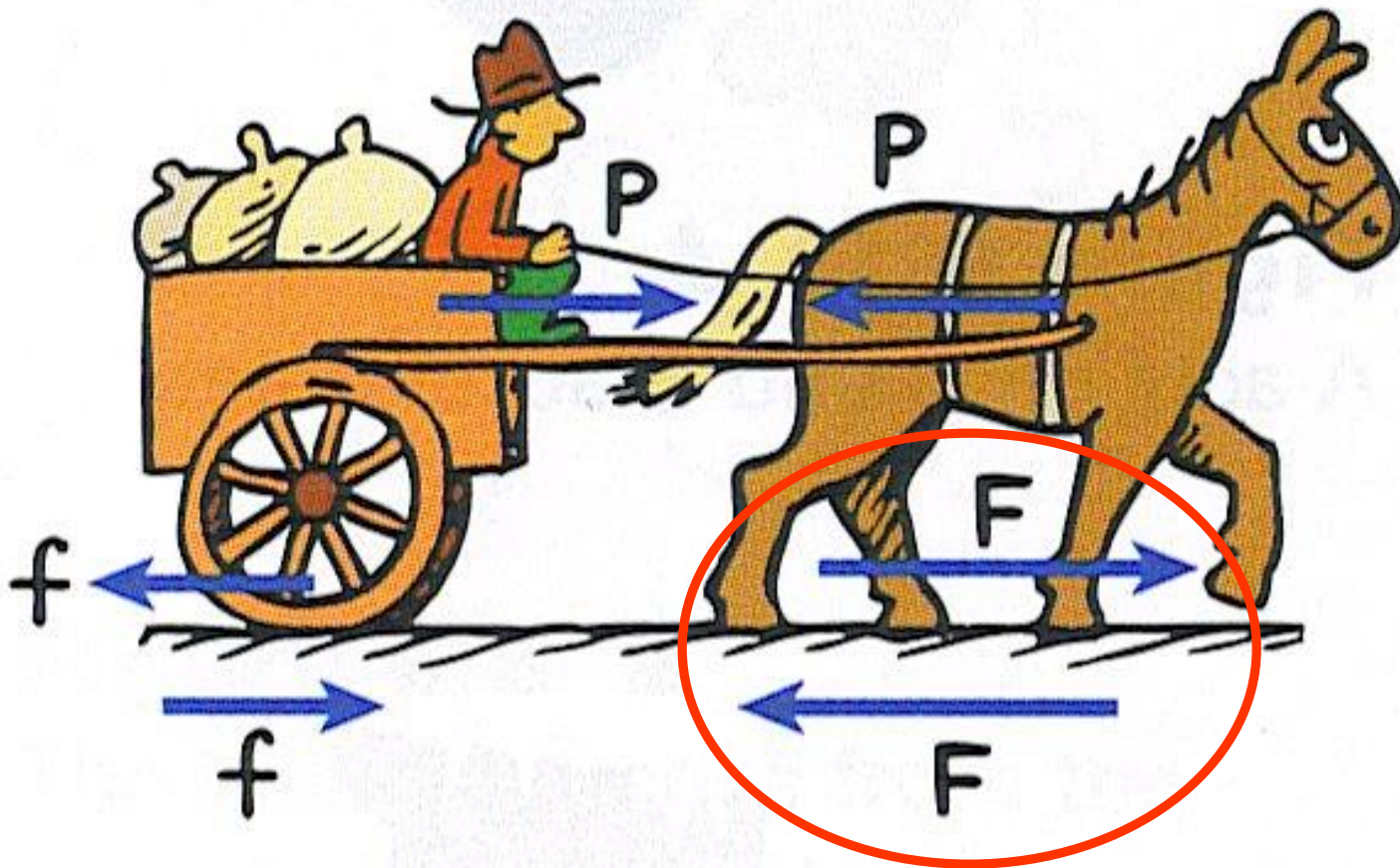


1. Cart system (net force exerted on cart divided by mass of cart = acceleration)

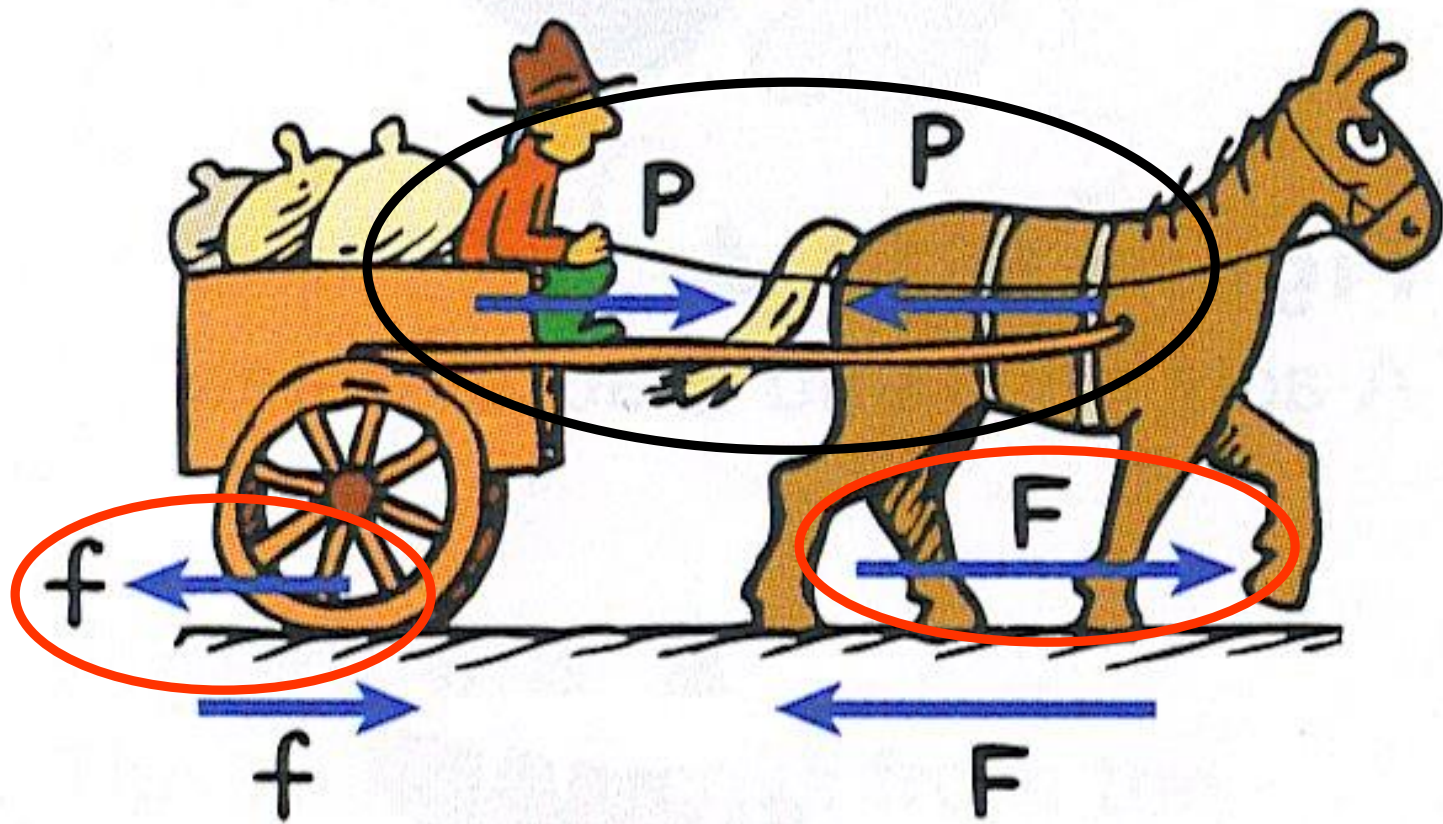




2. Horse system (horse moves forward by interaction with the ground— horse pushes backwards on the ground and the ground pushes forward on the



3. Horse-cart system (when consider only internal forces , forces that act and react within the system, they cancel. There must be interaction







B. Stalled car example— you cannot move car forward by sitting in car and pushing on the dashboard. Must interact with the ground— make ground push car.



VII. Action Equals Reaction (7.7)– for every interaction between things, there is always a pair of oppositely directed forces that are equal in strength.

