



## Example:

An observant physics student notices a rat falling from the top of their school. She determined that it took 0.15 s for the rat to pass the second storey window, which is 1.9 m off the ground, and 2.6 m from the top of the school.

- How tall is the window?
- What speed did the rat have when it landed?

Sep 19-12:58 PM

Diagram illustrating the fall of the rat from the top of the school to the ground, passing through three windows.

**Section ①:** Rat falls from the top of the school (d = 2.6 m) to the middle window (d = 1.9 m). Initial velocity  $v_i = 0$ , acceleration  $a = 9.8 \frac{m}{s^2}$ , time  $t = ?$ . Final velocity  $v_f = ?$

**Section ②:** Rat falls from the middle window (d = 1.9 m) to the bottom window (d = 0 m). Initial velocity  $v_i = 7.14 \frac{m}{s}$ , acceleration  $a = 9.8 \frac{m}{s^2}$ , time  $t = ?$ . Final velocity  $v_f = ?$

**Section ③:** Rat falls from the bottom window (d = 0 m) to the ground. Initial velocity  $v_i = ?$ , acceleration  $a = 9.8 \frac{m}{s^2}$ , time  $t = ?$ . Final velocity  $v_f = ?$

**Section ①:**

$$v_f^2 = v_i^2 + 2ad$$

$$= 0 + 2(9.8)(2.6)$$

$$= 50.96$$

$$v_f = 7.14 \frac{m}{s}$$

**Section ②:**

$$d = v_i t + \frac{1}{2} a t^2$$

$$1.9 = (7.14)(0.15) + \frac{1}{2}(9.8)(0.15)^2$$

$$= 1.071 + 0.110$$

$$= 1.181 \text{ m}$$

The window is 1.18 m high.

**Section ③:**

$$d = 2.6 + 1.181 + 1.9 = 5.681 \text{ m}$$

$$v_i = 0$$

$$a = 9.8 \frac{m}{s^2}$$

$$v_f = ?$$

$$v_f^2 = v_i^2 + 2ad$$

$$= 0 + 2(9.8)(5.681)$$

$$= 111.3$$

$$v_f = 10.6 \frac{m}{s}$$

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