

PETZL®

BELAYING THE LEADER

GRIGRI®

Many climbers have developed the bad habit of continuously holding the GRIGRI's cam open in order to give slack as the leader progresses. This is a dangerous practice. While the «classic» technique shown in existing GRIGRI instructions remains sound, the new technique developed by climbers may help promote better habits. The information presented in this document is non-exhaustive. You must be trained in proper belay techniques. Consult the GRIGRI technical notice. For more information, including a GRIGRI video, visit : www.petzl.com

New belay technique

The basics

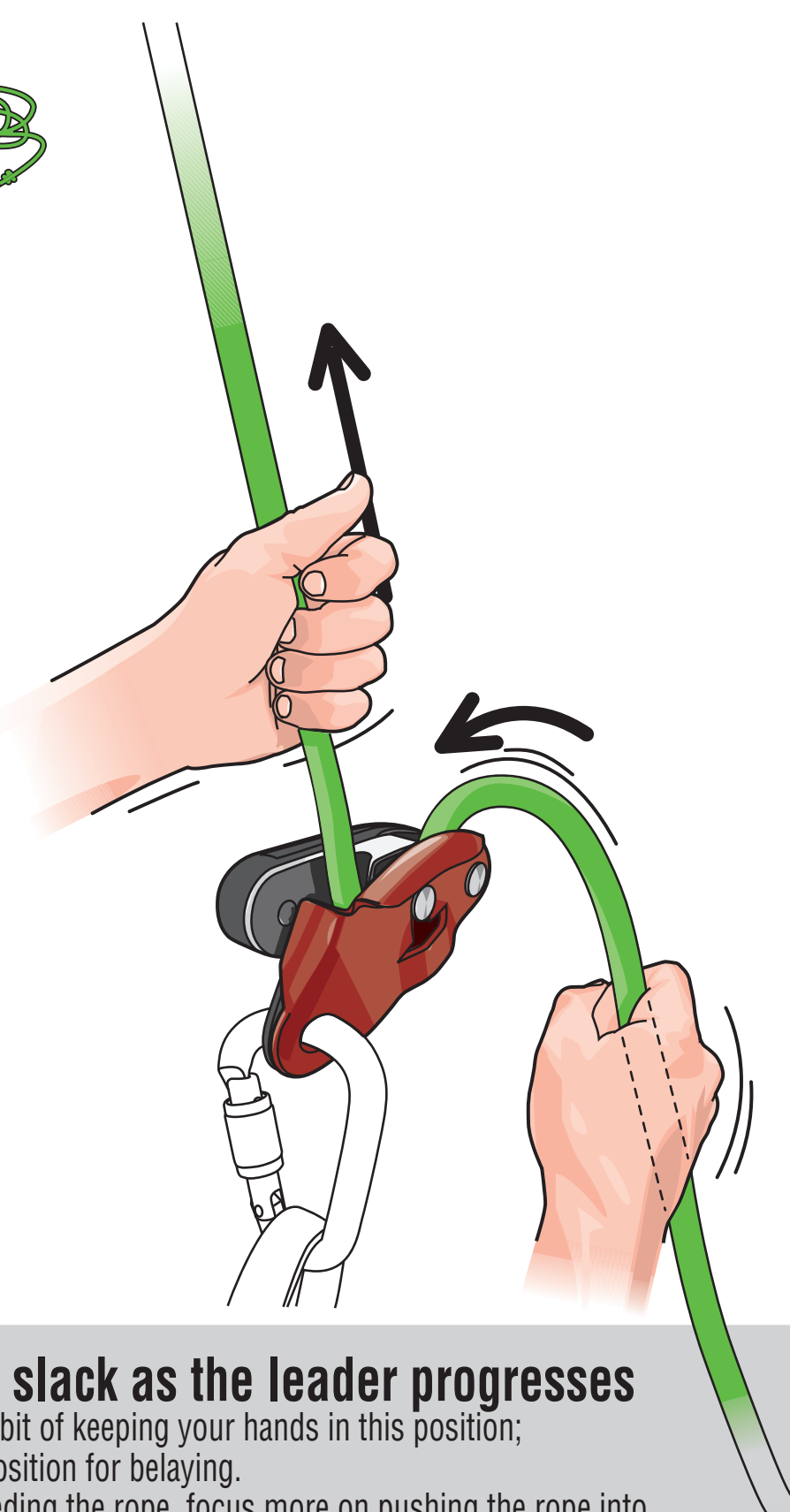
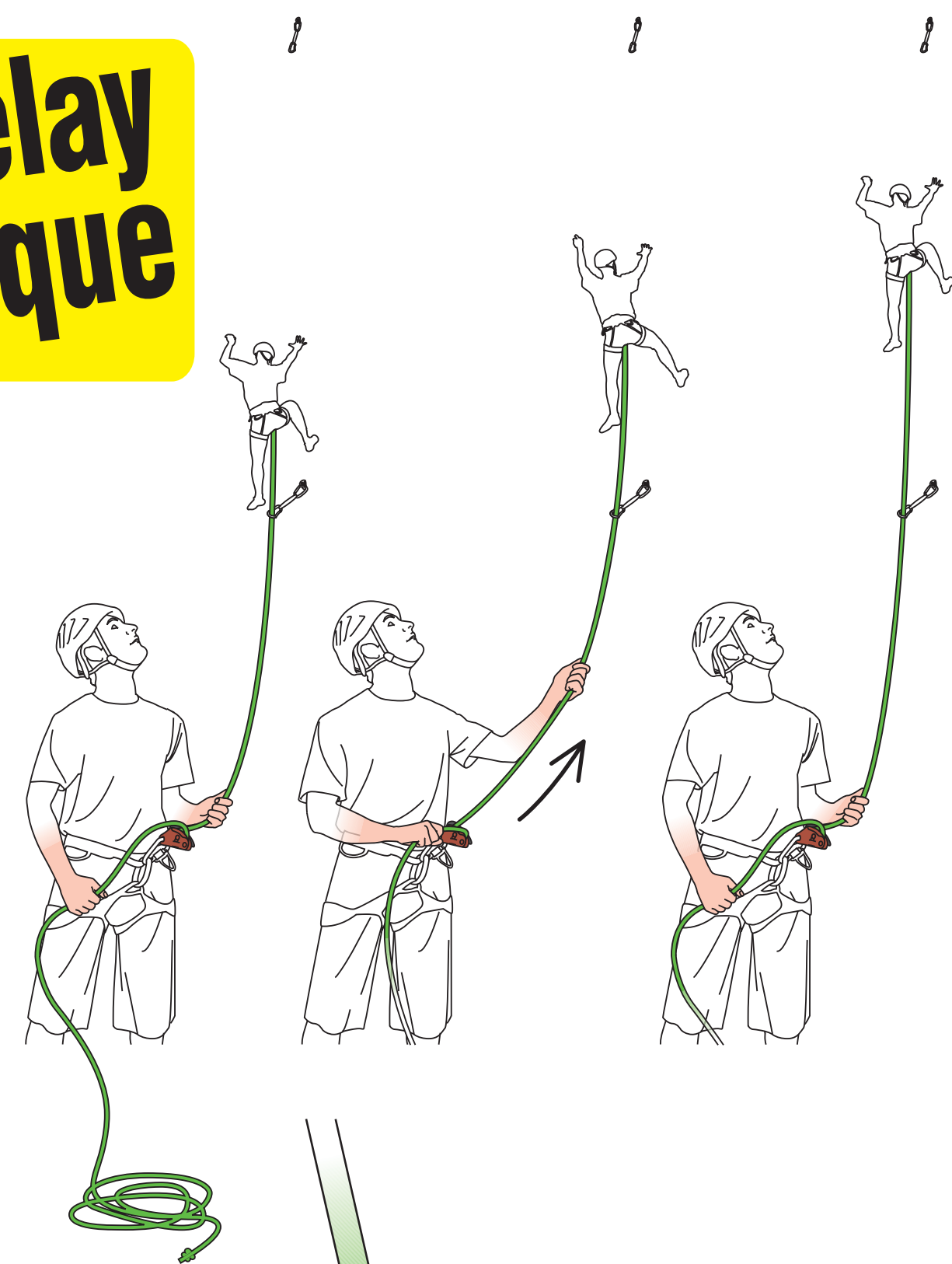
Pay attention!



The belayer must always hold the braking side of the rope



1 Giving slack as the leader progresses



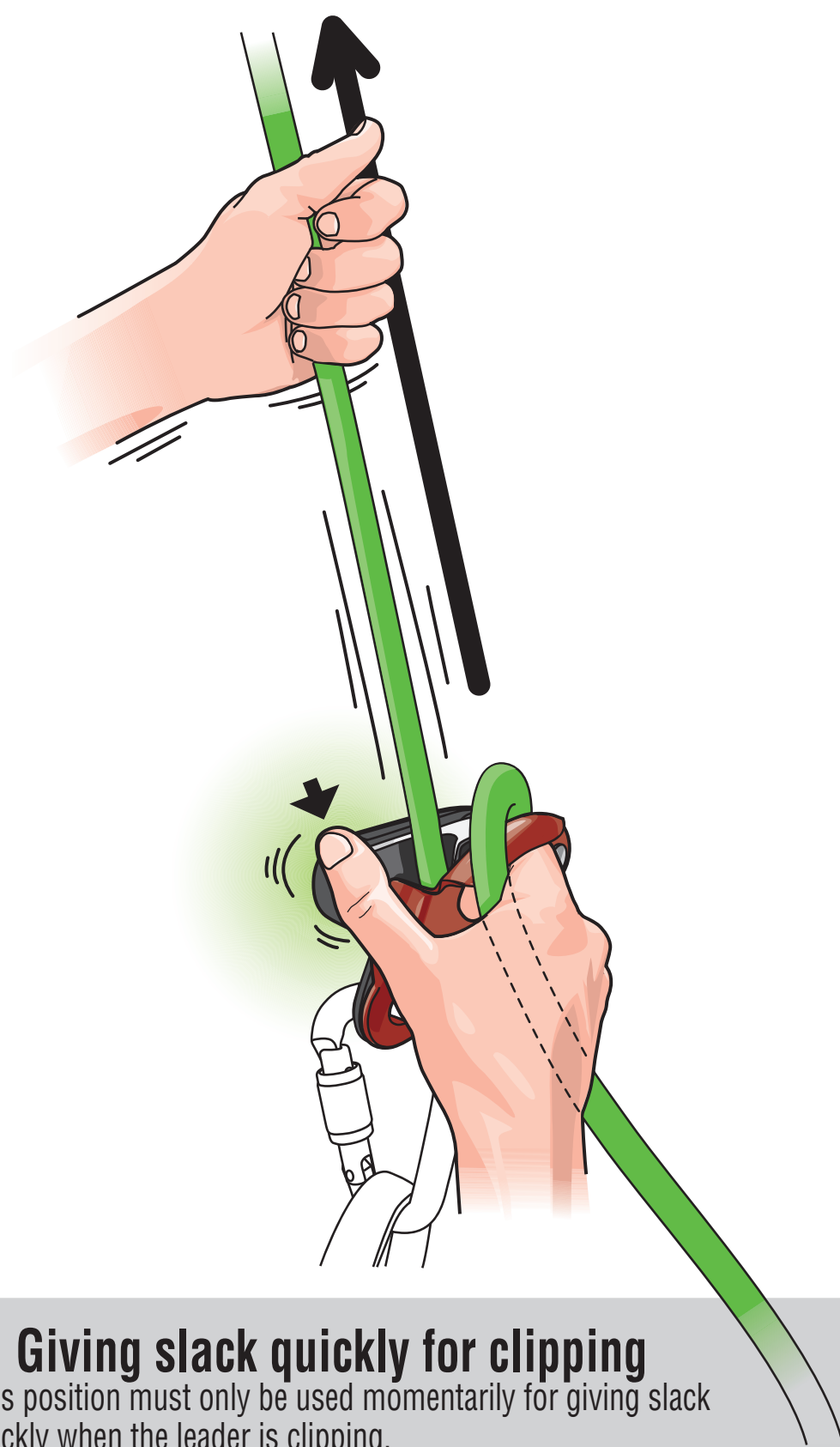
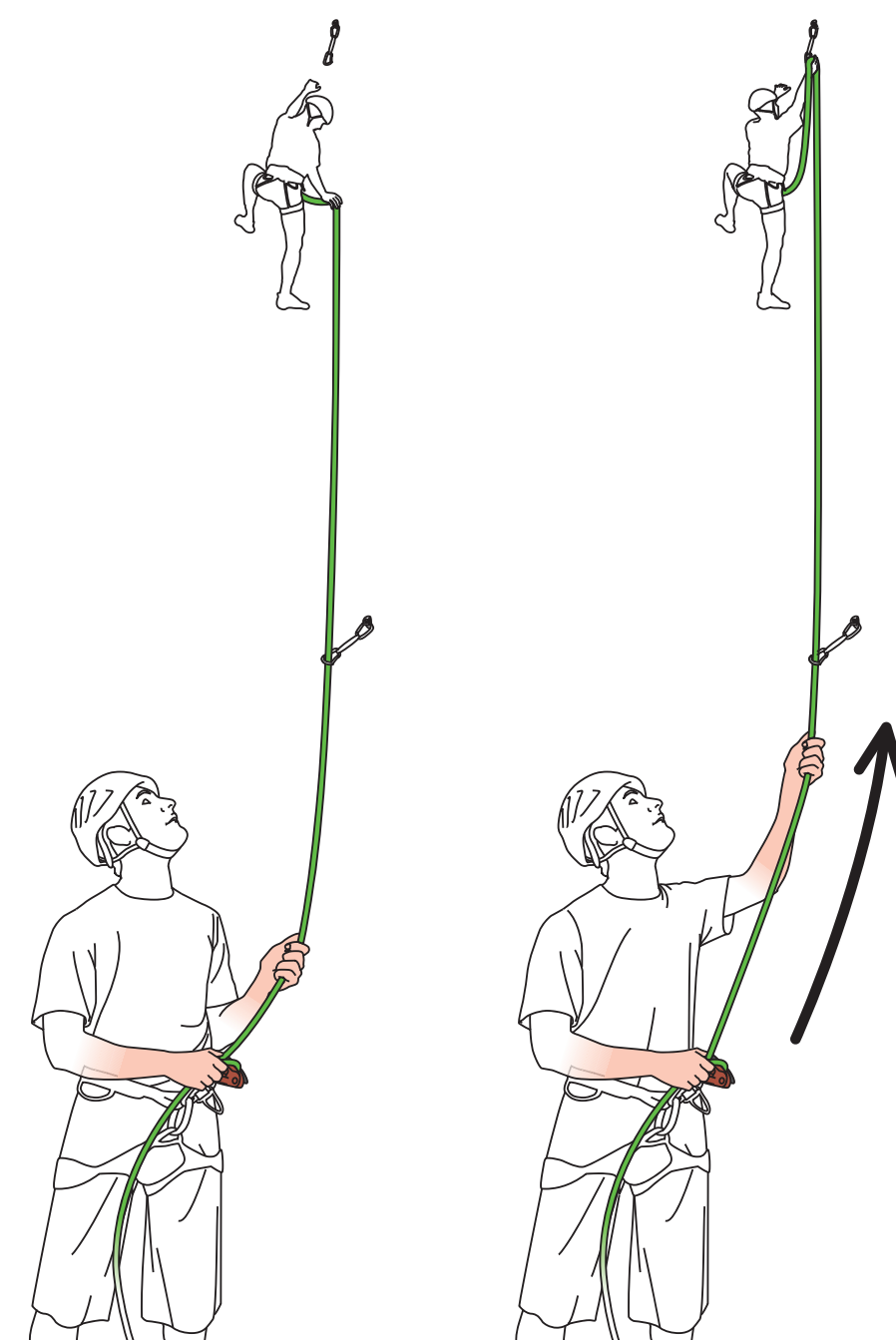
1. Giving slack as the leader progresses

Get into the habit of keeping your hands in this position; it's the main position for belaying. To facilitate feeding the rope, focus more on pushing the rope into the device rather than pulling it out (rotating movement). This position allows you to:

- Give or take in slack.
- Stop a fall.

Your hands should always stay in this position except when you need to give slack quickly for clipping.

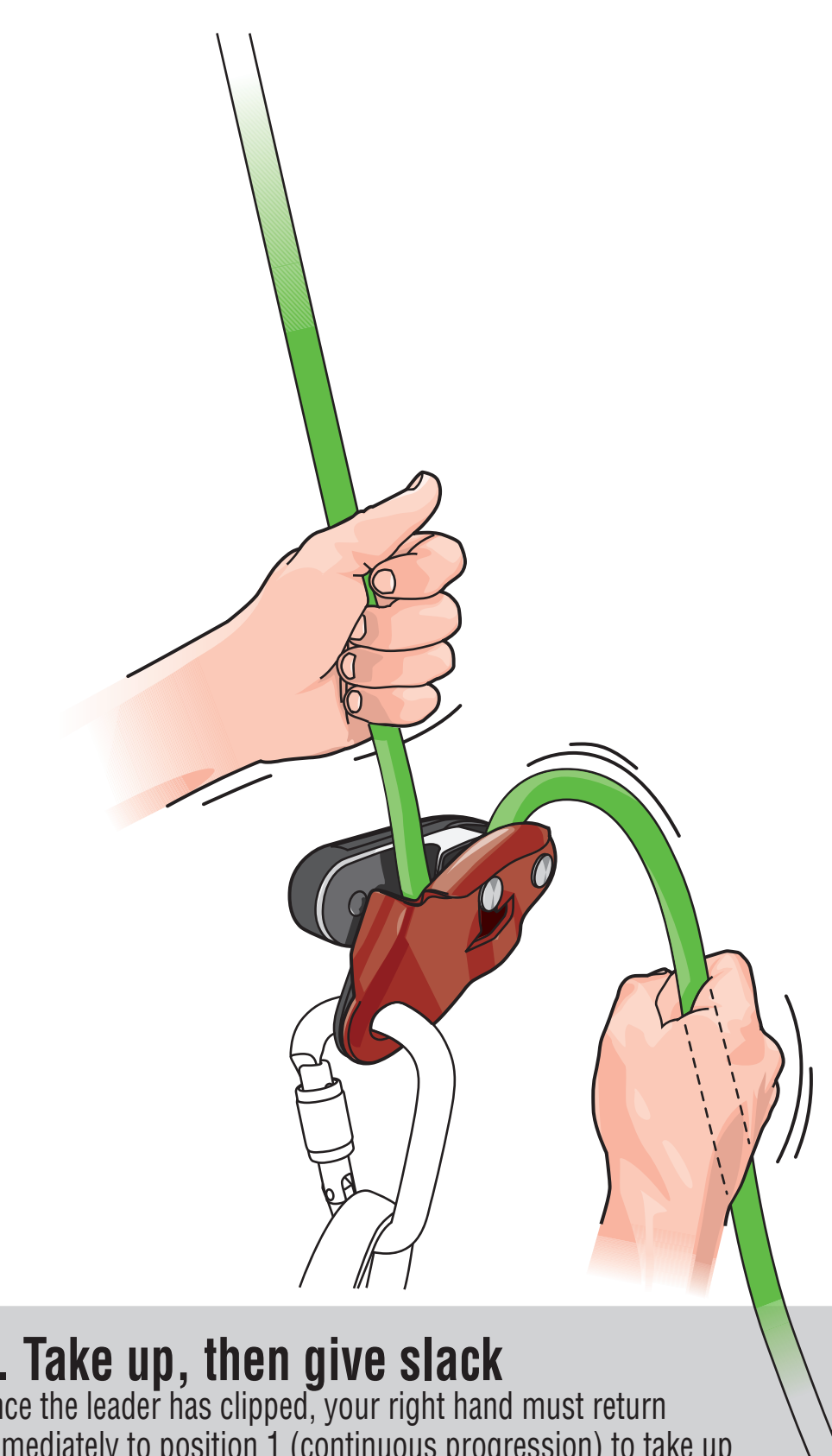
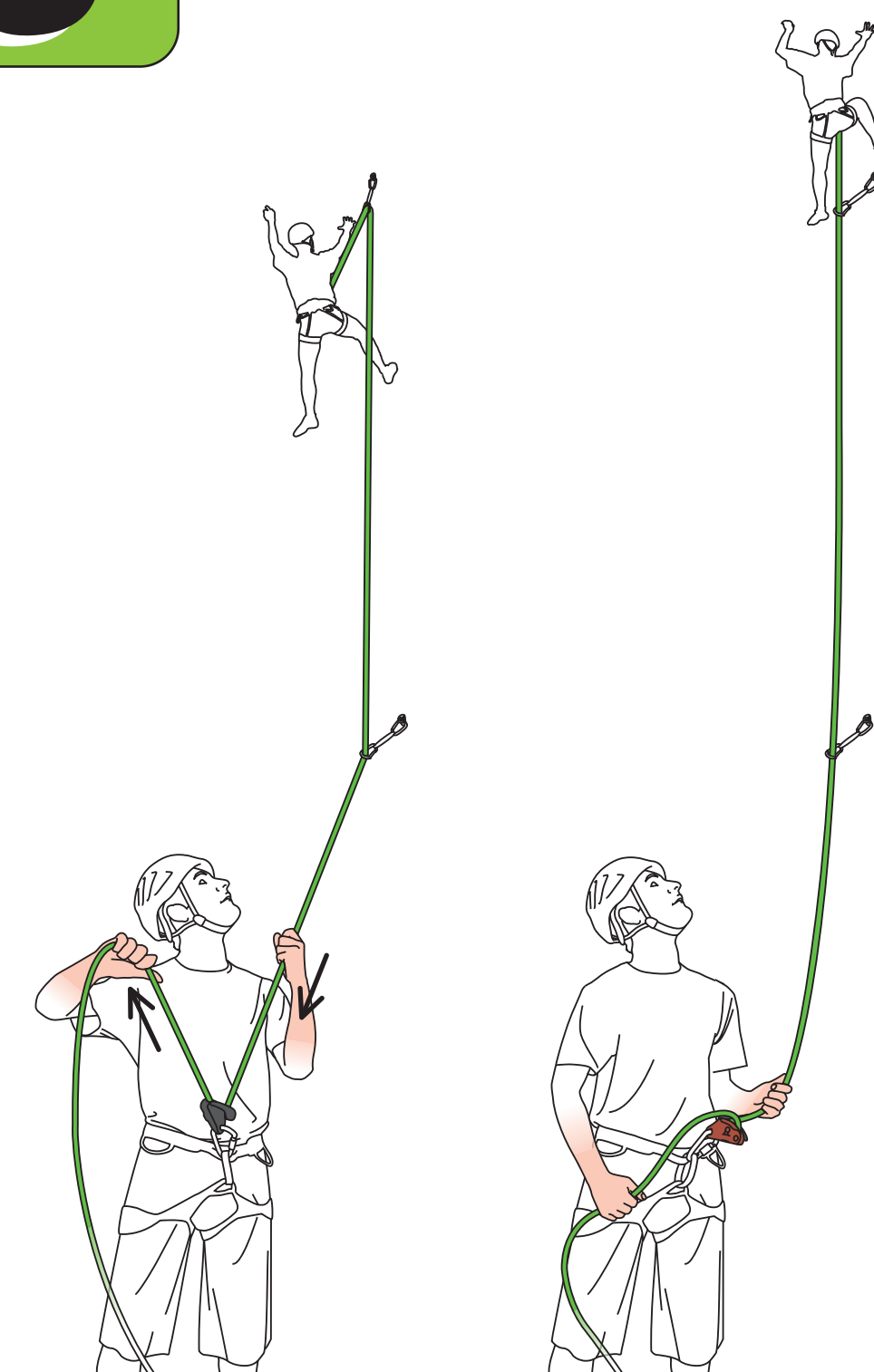
2 Giving slack quickly for clipping



2. Giving slack quickly for clipping

This position must only be used momentarily for giving slack quickly when the leader is clipping. Brace your index finger against the lip on the sideplate, with the thumb pressing against the cam. The brake hand always holds the braking side of the rope. Do not grip the device with your entire hand.

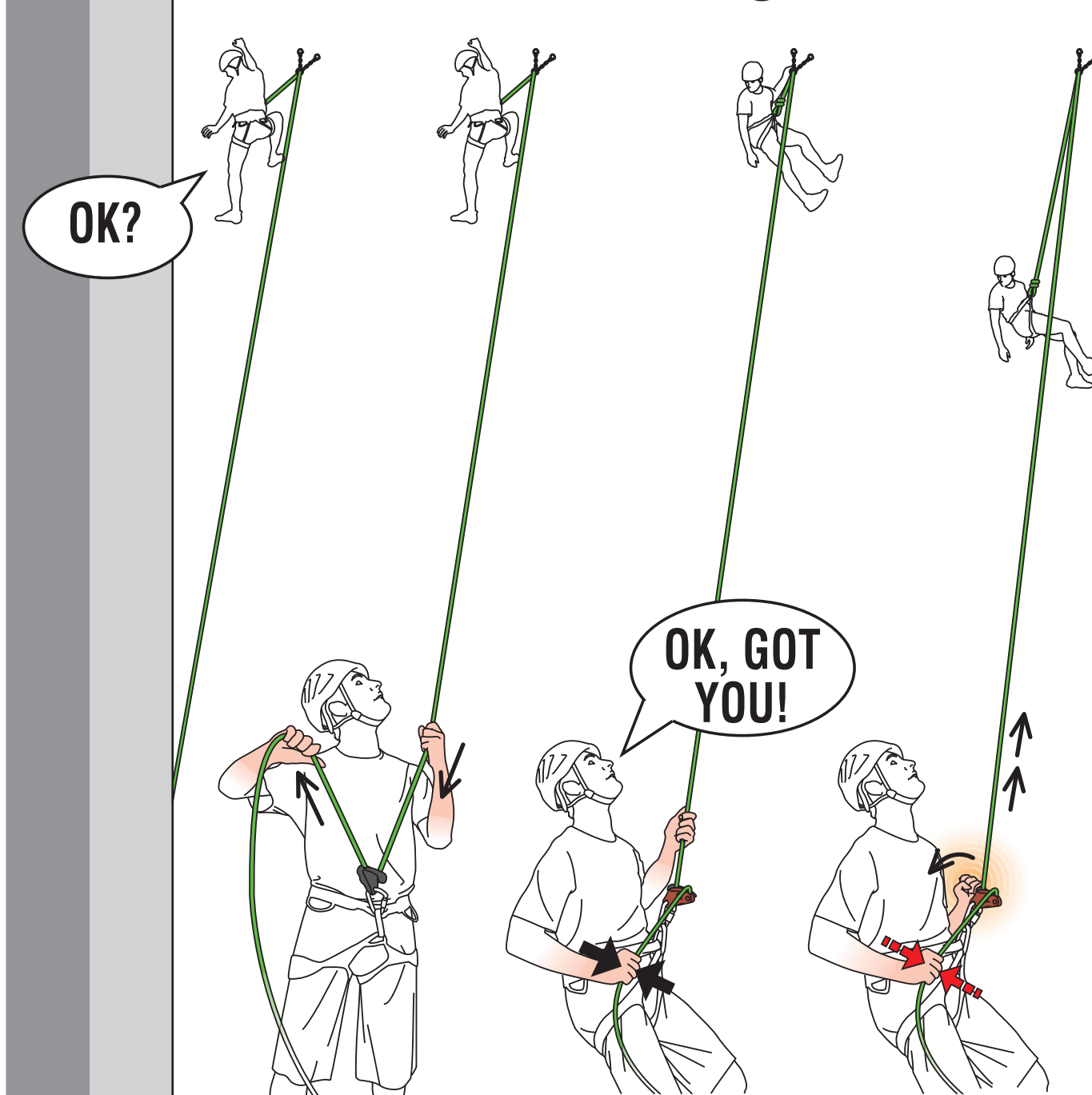
3 Take up slack and return to position 1



3. Take up, then give slack

Once the leader has clipped, your right hand must return immediately to position 1 (continuous progression) to take up slack. Take up slack until the leader reaches the quickdraw. Then begin giving slack again, with both hands always on the rope.

Lowering



Lowering

- The leader is ready to be lowered; he calls to the belayer: OK?
- The belayer takes up slack.
- Then the belayer weights the rope, with the brake hand on the braking side of the rope. OK!
- The leader puts his full weight onto the rope.
- The belayer holds the braking side of the rope while gradually pulling on the handle. The handle can assist in braking, but the rate of descent is controlled by varying the grip of the brake hand on the braking side of the rope. It is essential to practice with your rope, using a backup.

