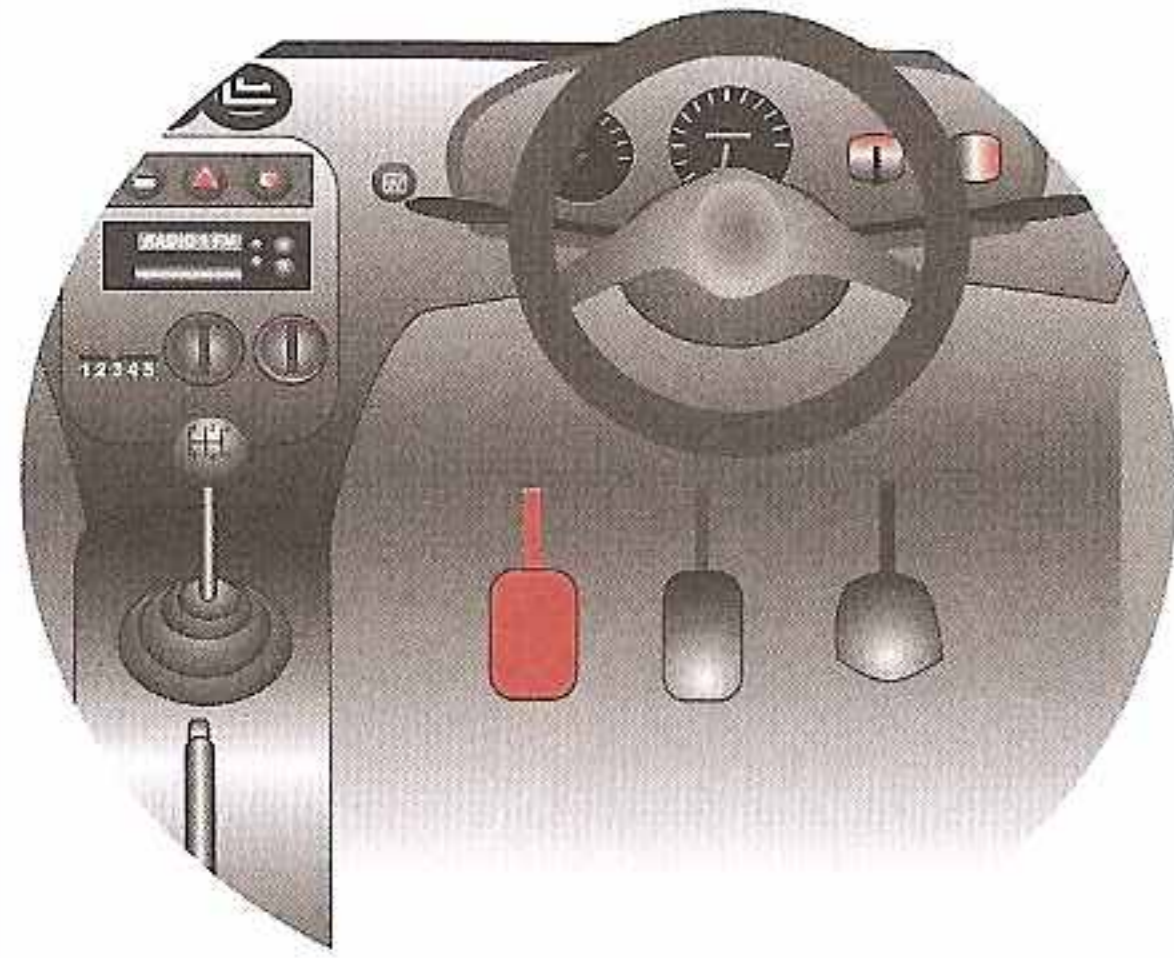


# The Clutch



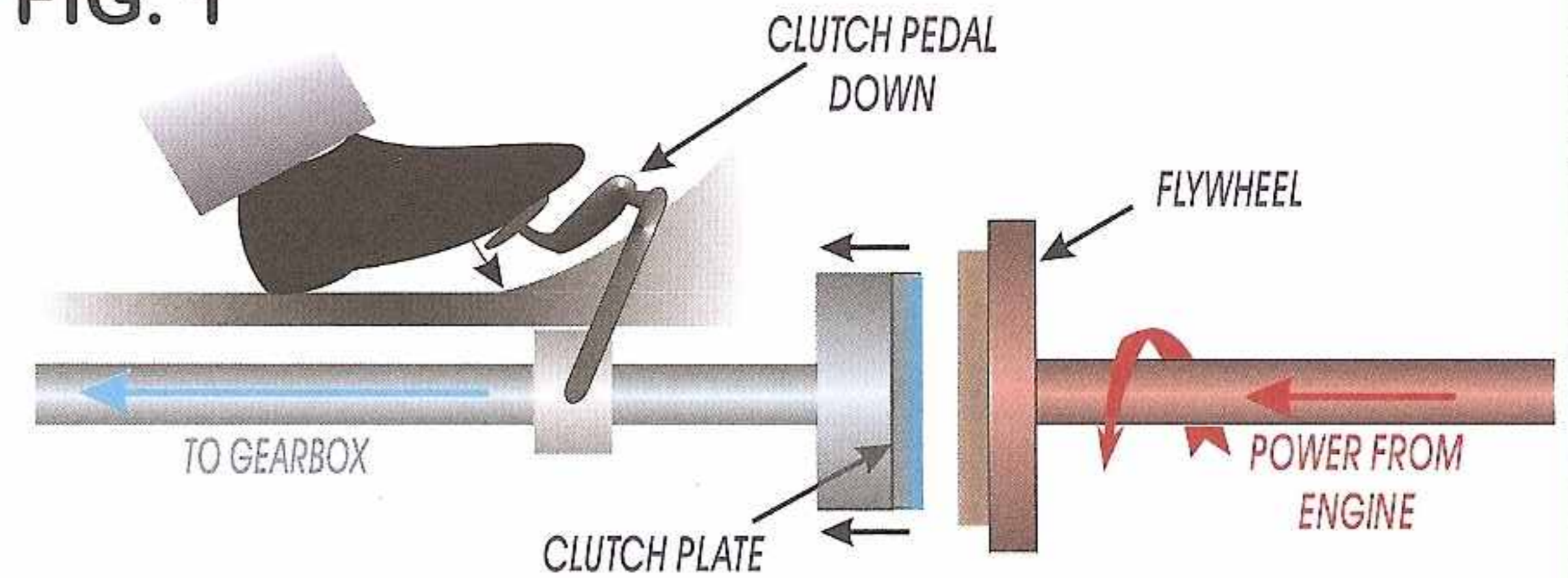
**Use:** The clutch pedal is the left of the three pedals and is operated by the left foot. The ability to sense the 'biting point' and allow the plates to come together smoothly is essential when moving off and changing gear. The clutch pedal should be brought up all the way, except when performing clutch control, and should **not** be used as a foot rest.

## The Clutch

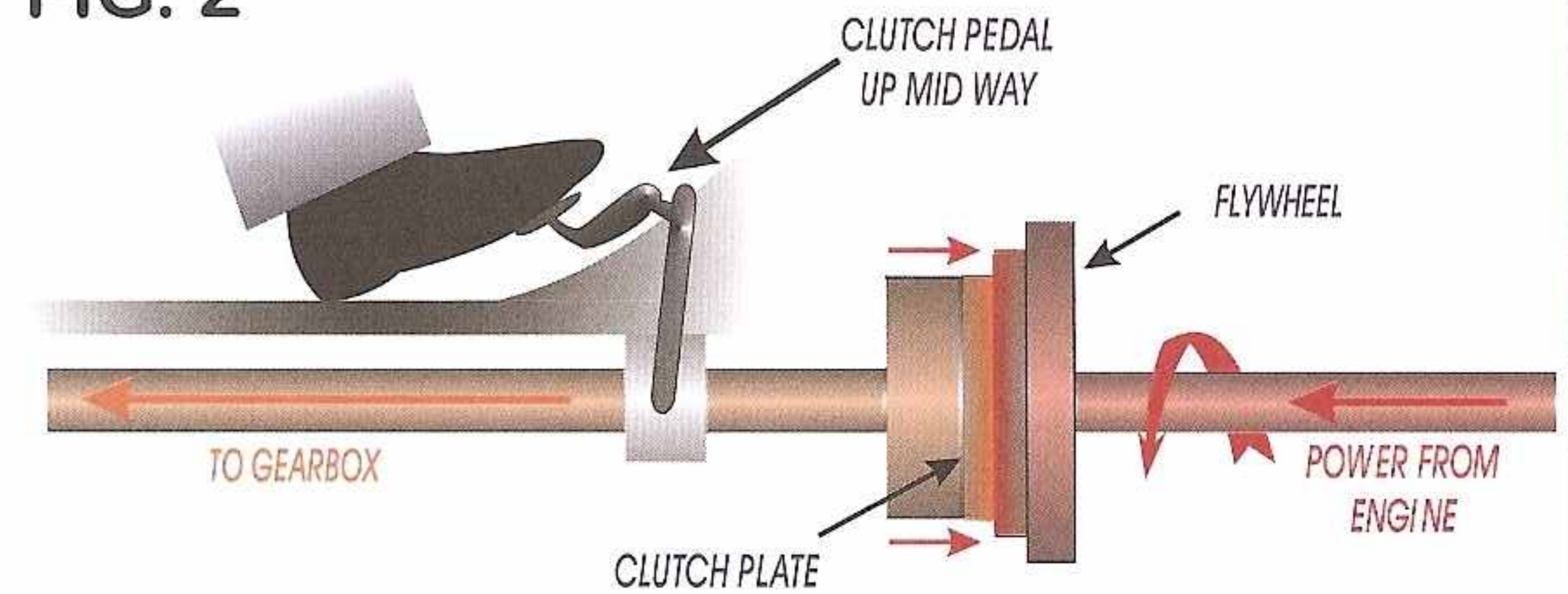
**Purpose:** Enables the driver to engage and disengage the power from the engine to the driving wheels of the vehicle. This is done in order to allow the gears to be selected smoothly. It also allows us to control the vehicle at very slow speeds, this is known as **clutch control**.

**How it works:** In simple form, the clutch is made up of two plates. One of these, the flywheel, turns whenever the engine is running; the other, the clutch plate, is connected to the drive wheels via the gearbox, and turns only when in contact with the flywheel or when a gear is selected and the vehicle is moving. Pushing the pedal down (Fig.1) separates the plates, therefore disconnecting the drive from the engine to the wheels. The point at which the two plates come together (Fig.2) and the power from the engine is starting to be transferred to the wheels, is called the 'biting point'. When the clutch pedal is "up" (Fig. 3) and a gear is selected the plates are pushed together by spring pressure so that the engine will drive the car.

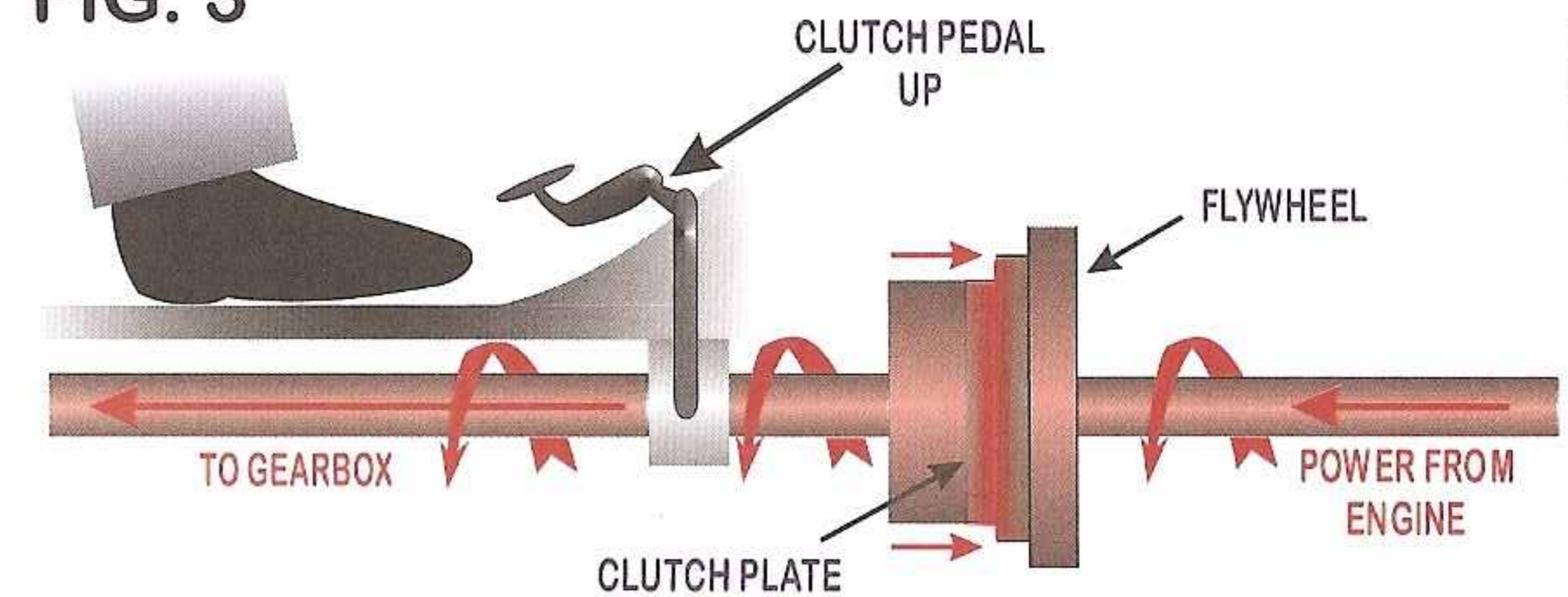
**DISENGAGED  
FIG. 1**



**BITING POINT  
FIG. 2**



**ENGAGED  
FIG. 3**



## Quick Quiz

1. True or false? When the clutch pedal is up the drive from the engine is always transferred to the driving wheels.
2. What is the name given to the point at which the clutch plate and flywheel begin to come together?
3. Why should the clutch pedal **not** be used as a foot rest?
4. True or false? Clutch control is used mainly when moving at faster speeds.