48. We neglect air resistance, which justifies setting $a = -g = -9.8$ m/s^2 (taking *down* as the $-y$ direction) for the duration of the motion. We are allowed to use Table 2-1 (with Δy replacing Δx) because this is constant acceleration motion. The ground level is taken to correspond to the origin of the y axis. The total time of fall can be computed from Eq. 2-15 (using the quadratic formula).

$$\Delta y = v_0 t - \frac{1}{2} g t^2 \quad \Longrightarrow \quad t = \frac{v_0 + \sqrt{v_0^2 - 2g\Delta y}}{g}$$

with the positive root chosen. With $y = 0$, $v_0 = 0$ and $y_0 = h = 60$ m, we obtain

$$t = \frac{\sqrt{2gh}}{g} = \sqrt{\frac{2h}{g}} = 3.5 \text{ s} .$$

Thus, "1.2 s earlier" means we are examining where the rock is at $t = 2.3$ s:

$$y - h = v_0(2.3) - \frac{1}{2} g (2.3)^2 \quad \Longrightarrow \quad y = 34 \text{ m}$$

where we again use the fact that $h = 60$ m and $v_0 = 0$.