

Lesson 37: Classical v. Operant Conditioning

Activity: Is it classical or operant conditioning?

For each of the statements below, determine whether it represents classical or operant conditioning.

1. Alfred got food poisoning from some chicken wings at a local restaurant. Now he says he can no longer eat chicken wings.
2. The teacher gives the children one jelly bean apiece each time they complete their homework.
3. When you were very young, your cousins took you to the beach and you got pulled under the waves. This was a terrible experience for you; now you feel fear every time you go near the ocean.
4. Johnny is given a "time out" for writing on the walls in crayon.
5. Amanda's husband compliments her for the hard work and effort she put into preparing Christmas dinner.
6. Mike got into an accident on the 101 freeway. Now he feels anxiety whenever he travels on that freeway.
7. Your grandmother used to wear a distinctive perfume. Now whenever you smell the scent of that perfume, you think of her.
8. Because Mary got straight A's on her report card, her parents allow her to have curfew that is one hour later than previously.

Lesson 34: Classical Conditioning

Activity: Classical Conditioning

In the following scenarios label the Neutral Stimulus (NS), Unconditioned Stimulus (US), Unconditioned Response (UR), Conditioned Stimulus (CS), and Conditioned Response (CR).

1. A loud noise deeply frightened a child and caused the child to cry when she was playing with a cat. Now when that same child sees a cat, she starts crying because she is scared.
2. John wore a new cologne the day he went on a cruise. He became extremely seasick. Now whenever he smells that cologne he feels sick.
3. Ann was drinking heavily one night and got sick on vodka and tonic. Now even the smell of vodka and tonic makes her feel nauseous.
4. When a newborn baby's cheek is stroked, it turns its head in the direction of the stroke. A researcher pairs the smell of lemon with the stroking of the cheek of an infant for a series of trials. Soon, the baby turns its head when it smells the scent of lemon.
5. Little Albert was a 9-month-old infant that was exposed to the pairing of a loud noise with a white rat. As a result of this study, Little Albert developed a fear of white rats.
6. At a party, Jason goes around popping balloons with his lit cigarette. After a few balloons, Monica noticed herself tensing and squinting every time Jason put his cigarette close to a balloon.
7. Nancy feeds her cat canned food, and she uses an electric can opener to open her cat's food. Whenever the cat hears the electric can opener, it runs to the kitchen.
8. Jessica was bitten by a dog, which caused her a lot of pain. Now whenever she sees dogs, she feels fearful.

Lesson 36: Operant Conditioning

Activity: Reinforcement v. Punishment

For each example presented below, identify whether positive reinforcement (PR), negative reinforcement (NR), positive punishment (PP), or negative punishment (NP) is illustrated.

1. Police pulling drivers over and giving prizes for buckling up.
2. Suspending a hockey player for committing a flagrant foul.
3. A child snaps her fingers until the teacher calls on her.
4. A hospital patient is allowed extra visiting time after eating a complete meal.
5. Grounding a teenager until his or her homework is finished.
6. A prisoner loses TV privileges for one week for a rule of violation.
7. A rat presses a lever to terminate a shock or a loud tone.
8. A young child receives \$5 for earning good grades in school.
9. An adolescent girl decreases her time studying after she is teasing by her friends for being a "brain".
10. A defendant is harassed and tortured until he confesses.
11. A mother smiles when her child utters, "Mama".

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Activity: Schedules of Reinforcement

In each of the following scenarios indicate which schedule of reinforcement is being used: fixed-ratio, fixed-interval, variable-ratio, or variable-interval.

1. June gets paid \$30 for every 10 movie tickets she sells.
2. The employee who sells the most merchandise in the store will receive a \$100 bonus.
3. John pays his don a quarter for every 15 minutes he practices playing the trumpet.
4. Betty is a waitress; some nights she makes a lot of money and some nights she makes only a little money.
5. Ms. Wright gives quizzes every Friday.
6. Mr. Peterson gives pop quizzes, and they could occur any day of the week.
7. Bob's parents pay him \$10 for every A he gets on his report card.
8. You tell yourself you can stop studying after you have read an entire chapter in your psychology book.
9. You force yourself to study your psychology notes while listening to your favorite CD.
10. The lottery is based on a _____ schedule of reinforcement.