

Psychology 101

chapter 6 – learning



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learning a relatively permanent behavior change due to experience

associative learning learning that certain events occur together. The events may be two stimuli (as in classical conditioning) or a response and its consequences (as in operant learning)

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Now stimulus an event or situation that evokes a response

cognitive learning the acquisition of mental information, whether by observing events, watching others, or through language

classical conditioning a type of learning in which we learn to link two or more stimuli and anticipate events

neutral stimulus in classical conditioning, a stimulus that elicits no response before conditioning

unconditioned response in classical conditioning, an unlearned, naturally occurring response (such as salivation) to an unconditioned stimulus (US) (such as food in mouth)

unconditioned stimulus in classical conditioning, a stimulus that unconditionally - naturally and automatically - triggers a response (UR)

conditioned response in classical conditioning, a learned response to a previously neutral (but now conditioned) stimulus

conditioned stimulus in classical conditioning, an originally irrelevant stimulus that, after association with an unconditioned stimulus (US), comes to trigger a conditioned response

acquisition (1) in classical conditioning, the initial stage, when we link a neutral stimulus and an unconditioned stimulus so that the neutral stimulus begins triggering the conditioned response. (2)

In operant conditioning, the strengthening of a reinforced response

extinction in classical conditioning, the weakening of a conditioned response when an unconditioned stimulus does not follow a conditioned stimulus (in operant conditioning, the weakening of a response when it is no longer reinforced)

spontaneous recovery the reappearance, after a pause, of

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an extinguished conditioned response generalization in classical conditioning, the tendency, after conditioning, to respond similarly to stimuli that resemble the conditioned stimulus discrimination (1) in classical conditioning, the learned ability to distinguish between a conditioned stimulus and other irrelevant stimuli (2) unjustifiable negative behavior toward a group and its members operant conditioning a type of learning in which behavior is strengthened if followed by a reinforcer or diminished if followed by a punisher operant chamber a box (also known as a Skinner box) with an attached recording device to track the rate at which an animal presses the box's bar to obtain a reinforcer. used in operant conditioning research reinforcement in operant conditioning, any event that strengthens the behavior it follows shaping an operant conditioning procedure in which reinforcers guide actions closer and closer toward a desired behavior positive reinforcement increase behaviors by presenting positive stimuli, such as food. a positive reinforcer is anything that, when presented after a response, strengthens the response negative reinforcement increases behaviors by stopping or reducing negative stimuli, such as shock. a negative reinforcer is anything that, when removed after a response, strengthens the response (note: this is not punishment) primary reinforcer an event that is innately reinforcing, often by satisfying a biological need conditioned reinforcer (aka secondary reinforcer) an event that gains its reinforcing power through its link with a primary reinforcer reinforcement schedule a pattern that defines how often a desired response will be reinforced continuous reinforcement reinforcing a desired response every time it occurs partial (intermittent) reinforcement reinforcing a response only part of the time; results in slower acquisition but much greater resistance to extinction than

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does continuous reinforcement fixed-ratio schedule in operant conditioning, a reinforcement schedule that reinforces a response only after a specified number of responses variable-ratio schedule in operant conditioning, a reinforcement schedule that reinforces a response after an unpredictable time interval fixed-interval schedule in operant conditioning, a reinforcement schedule that reinforces a response only after a specified time has elapsed variable-interval schedule in operant conditioning, a reinforcement schedule that reinforces a response at unpredictable time intervals punishment an event that decreases the behavior it follows respondent behavior behavior that occurs as an automatic response to some stimulus operant behavior behavior that operates on the environment, producing consequences behaviorism the view that psychology (1) should be an objective science that (2) studies behavior without reference to mental processes. most research psychologists today agree with (1) but not (2) cognitive map a mental image of the layout of one's environment latent learning learning that is not apparent until there is an incentive to demonstrate it intrinsic motivation a desire to perform a behavior for its own sake extrinsic motivation a desire to perform a behavior to gain a reward or avoid a punishment observational learning learning by observing others modeling the process of observing and imitating a specific behavior mirror neuron neuron that fires when we perform certain actions and when we observe others performing those actions; neural basis for imitation and observational learning prosocial behavior positive, constructive, helpful behavior. the opposite of antisocial behavior