

Psychology: chapter 6 learning key terms



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Stimulus Something that produces a reaction or response
Response A reaction

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Conditioning Learning Classical

Conditioning a simple form of learning in which one stimulus calls forth the response that is usually called forth by another stimulus
Unconditioned

Stimulus A stimulus that causes a response that is automatic and not learned.

Unconditioned Response An automatic response elicited by an unconditioned stimulus.
Conditioned Response A learned response to a stimulus that was

previously neutral or meaningless.
Conditioned Stimulus learned

stimulus
Taste Aversion Learned avoidance of a particular

food
Extinction Occurs when the conditioned stimulus is disconnected from

the unconditioned stimulus
Spontaneous Recovery A displayed response that was extinguished earlier.
Generalization The act of responding in the same

ways to the stimuli that seem to be similar even if the stimuli are not

identical.
Discrimination The act of responding differently to stimuli that are

not similar to each other.
Flooding When a person is exposed to harmless stimulus until fear responses to that stimulus are extinguished.
Systematic

Desensitization Relaxation techniques used to overcome fear.

Counterconditioning When a pleasant stimulus is paired repeatedly with a

fearful one, counteracting the fear.
Operant Conditioning When people and animals learn to do certain things and not to do others because of the results

of what they do.
Reinforcement The process by which a stimulus increases the chances that the preceding behavior will occur once again.
Primary

Reinforcement Reinforcers that function due to the biological makeup such as food, water, and adequate warmth.
Secondary Reinforcement Learned

reinforcers that initially acquire their value through being paired with

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established reinforcers. Positive Reinforcers Increase the frequency of the behavior they follow when they are applied. Negative Reinforcers Increase the frequency of the behavior when they are removed. Schedule Reinforcement When and how often the reinforcement occurs Continuous Reinforcement The reinforcement of a behavior every time it occurs Partial Reinforcement A behavior that is not reinforced overtime it occurs. Shaping A way in teaching complex behaviors in which one reinforces small steps in the right direction. Latent Learning Learning that remains hidden until it is needed. Observational Learning Acquiring knowledge and skills by observing and imitating others.