Learning

There are three types of learning that we cover in this chapter.

Classical Conditioning

Operant Conditioning

Observational Learning
General Psychology 202
Learning

Prologue: The Killer Attic
Introduction: What is Learning?
  • Principles of classical conditioning
  • Factors that affect conditioning
  • From Pavlov to Watson: The founding of behaviorism
  • Conditioned emotional responses: The famous case of Little Albert
  • Classical conditioning and drug use

Contemporary Views of Classical Conditioning
  • Cognitive aspects of classical conditioning: Reliable signals
  • Evolutionary aspects of classical conditioning: Biological predispositions to learn

Operant Conditioning: Associating Behaviors and Consequences
  • Thorndike and the Law of Effect
  • B.F. Skinner and the search for “Order in behavior”
  • Reinforcement: Increasing future behavior
  • Punishment: Using aversive consequences to decrease Behavior
  • Discriminative stimuli: Setting the occasion for responding
  • Shaping and maintaining behavior
  • Applications of operant conditioning

Contemporary Views of Operant Conditioning
  • Cognitive aspects of operant conditioning: Rats!
  • I thought you had the map!
  • Learned helplessness: Expectations of failure and learning to quit
  • Operant conditioning and biological predisposition: misbehaving chickens

Observational Learning: Imitating the Actions of Others
  • Observational learning in animals
  • Applications of observational learning

Closing Thoughts
Application: Using Learning Principles to Improve Self-Control
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classical Conditioning</th>
<th>Operant Conditioning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• What is learning?</td>
<td>• Operant Conditioning—Learned Helplessness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• What is conditioning?</td>
<td>o Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Pavlov and the Dogs</td>
<td>o Example</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o UCS</td>
<td>o Broader examples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o UCR</td>
<td>• Operant Conditioning—Schedules of Reinforcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o NS</td>
<td>o Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o CS</td>
<td>o Examples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o CR</td>
<td>o Influence on behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Other examples of classical conditioning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operant Conditioning</th>
<th>Observational Learning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Reinforcement</td>
<td>• Albert Bandura and the Bobo Doll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Examples</td>
<td>• Cognitive process that influence imitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Punishments</td>
<td>• Factors that increase the likelihood of imitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Examples</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Positive and negative reinforcement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Examples</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Positive and negative punishment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Examples</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Problems with punishments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Alternatives to punishments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classical versus operant conditioning</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Differences between operant and classical conditioning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Group work: Identify examples of classical conditioning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Conditioning**

The basic learning process that involves repeatedly pairing a neutral stimulus with a response-producing stimulus until the neutral stimulus elicits the same response (page 190).

- **Classical conditioning** (usually involves involuntary responses)
- **Operant conditioning** (usually involves voluntary responses)

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**Classical Conditioning**

The basic learning process that involves repeatedly pairing a neutral stimulus with a response-producing stimulus until the neutral stimulus elicits the same response (page 192).

**Examples from your text:**

- Pavlov’s dogs
- Little Albert
- Erv’s fear of the attic (see page 189)
  - Original stimulus = dying (UCS)
  - Original response = fear (UCR)
  - New (learned) stimulus = attic (CS)
  - New (learned) response = fear (CR)
- Feeling good (the response) when you hear a song (the stimulus) on the radio that is connected to a special time you’ve had.
Elements of Classical Conditioning

Classical Conditioning: An organism learns to associate two stimuli such that one stimulus comes to elicit a response that originally was elicited only by the original stimulus (page 202).

Identify the UCS, UCR, neutral stimulus, CS and CR

(1) Before each of his chemotherapy sessions, Allen, a young cancer patient, is given a bowl of ice cream. The chemotherapy makes Allen nauseated. Now just seeing the bowl of ice cream makes him feel queasy.

(2) Frank loved to swim in the lake near his house. After swimming in the lake one afternoon, he discovered two big slimy, bloodsucking leeches firmly attached to his leg. He was revolted as he pulled the slimy leeches off his leg. Now every time he passes the lake, he shudders in disgust.

(3) Every time two-year-old Jodie heard the doorbell ring she raced to open the front door. On Halloween night, Jodie answered the doorbell and encountered a scary monster with nine flashing eyes. Jodie screamed in fear and ran away. Now Jodie screams and hides whenever the doorbell rings.
Classical Conditioning:
One Trial Learning & Taste aversions

Lithium and coyotes

Identify the
1. unconditioned stimulus (UCS),
2. unconditioned response (UCR),
3. neutral stimulus,
4. conditioned stimulus (CS),
5. conditioned response (CR).

How does the research on taste aversions violate two basic principles of classical conditioning?
- Learning of an association does not require repeated pairings of the stimulus and response.
- The time delay is in hours and not seconds.
Classical Conditioning

Other terms associated with Classical Conditioning:

• Extinction
• Spontaneous recovery
• Stimulus generalization
• Discrimination (stimulus discrimination)
• Taste Aversions: one trial learning
• Biological preparedness