AP Psychology

Hofmann

Operant Conditioning PART 1

Classical conditioning is a type of learning based on association of stimuli. Operant conditioning is a kind of learning abased on the association of consequences with one’s behaviors. In operant conditioning, a behavior is strengthened if followed by a reinforcer or diminished if followed by a punisher.

**Reinforcement** is defined by its consequences; anything that makes a behavior MORE likely to occur is a reinforcer.

* Positive reinforcement refers to the ADDITION(+) of something PLEASANT
* Negative reinforcement refers to the REMOVAL(-) of something UNPLEASANT

**Punishment** is anything that makes a behavior LESS likely.

* Positive punishment is the ADDITION(+) of something UNPLEASANT
* Negative punishment is the REMOVAL(-) of something PLESANT

**Reinforcement=strengthens behavior Punishment=diminishes behavior**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Positive Reinforcement** | **Negative Reinforcement** | **Positive Punishment** | **Negative punishment** |
| Adds something pleasant (+) | Removes something unpleasant (-) | Adds something negative (+) | Removes something pleasant (-) |
| --Get a dollar  --Get dessert  --Get extra credit | --Excused from your chores  --Excused from your HW assignment | --get a spanking  --lunch detention | --No dessert  --No birthday presents  --No cell phone |

HINTS:

* If there is no change in behavior, it is non of the above as reinforcement must increase and punishment must decrease behavior
* Intent does not matter, outcome does!

**Operant Conditioning Consequences – PART II**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Positive** | **Negative** |
| **Reinforcement**  **(Strengthens response)** | **+ (Good)**  (Addition or presenting) of a good (desirable) stimulus, after a desired voluntary action that *strengthens* *response* & makes it *MORE likely to occur in the future.* | **- (Bad)**  (Subtraction or removal) of a bad (aversive) stimulus, after a desired voluntary action that *strengthens* *response* & makes it *MORE likely to occur in the future.* |
| **Punishment**  **(Weakens response)** | **+ (Bad)**  (Addition or presenting) of a bad (aversive) stimulus, after an undesired voluntary action that *weakens response* & makes it *LESS likely to occur in the future.* | **-  (Good)**  (Subtraction or removal) of a good (desirable) stimulus, after an undesired voluntary action that *weaken*s *response* & makes it *LESS likely to occur in the future.* |

**Types of Reinforcement and Punishment**

**Learning Targets**

* Distinguish between positive and negative reinforcement and positive and negative punishment.
* Evaluate scenarios to determine the operant conditioning consequence being utilized.

**Directions:** Using the chart above as a guide, specify which operant conditioning consequence is being applied in each of the following scenarios.

***HINT –***

1. Underline the voluntary behavior

2. Determine if the voluntary behavior increased in the future (reinforcement) or decreased in the future (punishment) – If neither of these occurred it is NA because learning did NOT occur.

3. Identify whether the example was positive or negative

**Use the following abbreviations:**

PR: Positive Reinforcement NR: Negative Reinforcement

PP: Positive Punishment NP: Negative Punishment

NA: Not Applicable – no reinforcement or punishment is occurring

1.\_\_\_\_\_\_ Peter keeps swearing in class, each time he does his teacher asks him to put a dime in a jar, since this policy has been implemented Peter’s swearing has slowed considerably. Which operant conditioning consequence did Peter receive?

2.\_\_\_\_\_\_ Three-year-old Benjamin behaves himself when he goes to the grocery store and gets to choose a treat at the check out. The next time he is taken to the grocery store he is well behaved. Which operant conditioning consequence did Benjamin receive?

3.\_\_\_\_\_\_Twelve-year-old Nina developed a habit of slamming the door to her bedroom when she was not happy about something and this behavior bothered her parents. One day when Nina came home from school her she realized her father had removed the door from her bedroom. After the door was returned (two weeks later) Nina never slammed her door again. Which operant conditioning consequence did Nina receive?

4.\_\_\_\_\_\_ Harold teases his sister Melissa just to make her angry. She hits him every time he teases her, he thinks it is funny a teases her even more frequently. Which operant conditioning consequence did Harold receive?

5.\_\_\_\_\_\_ Greta comes home over 2 hours late. She is grounded by her parents and not allowed to use the car for two weeks. Although she hates being grounded, she continues to come home late.

6.\_\_\_\_\_\_Eddie likes to drive fast, really fast. In the last week he received two speeding tickets and had to pay $250 of his own money. Eddie now obeys all traffic laws.

**7.\_\_\_\_\_\_** Eddie likes to drive fast, really fast. In the last week he has received two speeding tickets, that will show up, on his driving record, Eddie now obeys all traffic laws.

8.\_\_\_\_\_\_Simone has a terrible headache and takes a new type of migraine medicine. Almost immediately after taking the medicine she feels much better. As a result she takes this same medicine again in the future.

9.\_\_\_\_\_\_ Robert saw the icon for his e-mail flashing at the bottom of his screen; it was so annoying that in order to make it stop, he opened his e-mail to read the new message.

10.\_\_\_\_\_\_Sarah got her haircut in a new style and was unsure if she was happy with the cut. A number of her friends complimented her on the new look. The next time Sarah goes to have her hair done she chooses the same style. Which operant conditioning consequence did Sarah receive?

11.\_\_\_\_\_\_ Shirley’s boss praises her recent work in the advertising agency. She feels great about the compliment and works even harder. Which operant conditioning consequence did Shirley receive?

12.**\_\_\_\_\_\_** If every member of a psychology class does not complete their assigned reading, all the students are given twice as much on the next assignment. After this happens a few times, not a single student fails to do the reading. Which operant conditioning consequence did the members of the class receive?

13.\_\_\_\_\_\_The theme song for the ride “It’s a small world after all” would not stop playing the entire time that Martha was on the ride that seems to last forever. Which operant conditioning consequence did Martha receive?

14.\_\_\_\_\_\_ If Karen is nice to her boyfriend all week he brings her flowers; she loves flowers (and her boyfriend) and is always nice to him now. Which operant conditioning consequence did Karen receive?

15.\_\_\_\_\_\_ Tayla’s mother plays Barry Manilow music very loud (Tayla hates Barry Manilow) if Tayla is late coming downstairs for dinner. Which operant conditioning consequence did Tayla receive?

16.\_\_\_\_\_\_ Frank likes Nicki, but often makes fun of her and pulls her ponytail. She is irritated and calls him names, but he loves the attention and does it more often. Which operant conditioning consequence did Frank receive?

17.\_\_\_\_\_\_Every time Dan plays cards with his friends, he cheats. Finally, after catching him for the 3rd time, his friends refuse to let him join in the game for a week. When they finally allow him to play again, Dan no longer cheats. Which operant conditioning consequence did Dan receive?

18.\_\_\_\_\_\_ Thirteen-year-old Delilah sees a fast-food restaurant, and begins screaming that she must have French fries or she won’t survive. Her parents surrender and drive in for a large supply that makes Delilah stops screaming. The next time Delilah wants something from her parents, she throws a fit and her parents give in to her demands. Which operant conditioning consequence did Delilah receive?

19.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Thirteen-year-old Delilah is being driven past a fast-food restaurant, and begins screaming that she must have French fries or she won’t survive. Her parents surrender and drive in for a large supply that makes Delilah stop screaming. The next time Delilah wants something from her parents, she throws a fit and her parents give into her demands. Which operant conditioning consequence did Delilah’s PARENTS receive?

20.\_\_\_\_\_\_ Each time that students in AP psychology complete a formative assessment worksheet correctly they are given a high fives from their teacher. Because of this they try as hard as they can to do well on all of their worksheets.

21.\_\_\_\_\_\_ Tommy yells "You're the king of the world!" his brother lets him up off the floor.

**Operant Conditioning Consequences – PART III**

**Directions:** Create an original example for each of the four types of operant conditioning consequences. Think about your pets, siblings, parents, teachers, friends or yourself. How can you use operant conditioning in YOUR life?

Positive Reinforcement

Negative Reinforcement

Positive Punishment

Negative Punishment