

Chapter 6 Terms & Concepts

Underlined terms: definitions borrowed from the APA Glossary of Psychological terms

Boldface terms: from the glossary of terms in the assigned text

acquisition:

The stage in a classical conditioning experiment during which the conditioned response is first elicited by the conditioned stimulus

biofeedback:

A self-regulatory technique by which an individual acquires voluntary control over non-conscious biological processes

biological preparedness:

the built-in (innate) readiness to form associations between certain stimuli and responses

classical conditioning:

learning through involuntarily paired associations; it occurs when a neutral stimulus (NS) becomes paired (associated) with an unconditioned stimulus (US) to elicit a conditioned response (CR). (Also known as Pavlovian conditioning.)

cognitive map:

A mental representation of physical space

cognitive-social learning theory:

a perspective that emphasizes the roles of thinking and social learning in behavior

conditioned response (CR):

a learned reaction to a previously neutral stimulus

conditioned stimulus (CS):

a learned stimulus that elicits a conditioned response as a result of repeated pairings with an unconditioned stimulus

conditioning:

The ways in which events, stimuli, and behavior become associated with one another

continuous reinforcement:

according to Skinner, reinforcing a desired response every time it occurs

extinction:

In conditioning, the weakening of a conditioned association in the absence of a reinforcer or unconditioned stimulus

fixed interval (FI) schedule:

A schedule of reinforcement in which a reinforcer is delivered for the first response made after a fixed period of time

fixed ratio (FR) schedule:

A schedule of reinforcement in which a reinforcer is delivered for the first response made after a fixed number of responses

higher-order conditioning:

pairing of a second conditioned stimulus to exhibit the same conditioned response

insight:

the sudden understanding of a problem that implies the solution

insight learning:

being able to solve problems as a result of insight

instinctive drift:

the tendency of some conditioned responses (CR) to shift (or drift) back toward an innate response pattern

latent learning:

hidden learning that exists without behavioral signs

law of effect:

Thorndike's rule that the probability of an action being repeated is strengthened when followed by a pleasant or satisfying consequence

learning:

the relatively permanent change in behavior or mental processes caused by experience

mirror neurons:

parts of the brain believed to be responsible for human empathy and imitation which “mirror” in ourselves what is happening to those around us

negative punishment:

A behavior is followed by the removal of an appetitive stimulus, decreasing the probability of that behavior

negative reinforcement:

A behavior is followed by the removal of an aversive stimulus, increasing the probability of that behavior

neutral stimulus (NS):

an unlearned stimulus that does not elicit a response

observational learning:

learning a new behavior or information by watching others (also known as social learning or modeling)

operant:

Behavior emitted by an organism that can be characterized in terms of the observable effects it has on the environment

operant conditioning:

learning through voluntary responses and its consequences (also known as instrumental or Skinnerian conditioning)

partial (or intermittent) schedule of reinforcement:

reinforcing some responses, but not all

positive punishment:

A behavior is followed by the presentation of an aversive stimulus, decreasing the probability of that behavior

positive reinforcement:

A behavior is followed by the presentation of an appetitive stimulus, increasing the probability of that behavior