

Name _____

Classical vs. Operant Conditioning

For each of the following learning situations, indicate whether classical or operant conditioning best applies. Then, follow the appropriate instructions below:

Instructions

1. If you decide the situation is an example of classical conditioning, you should label the UCS, UCR, CS, and CR.
2. If you decide the situation is an example of operant conditioning, you should decide which of the following principles best fits: positive reinforcement, negative reinforcement, positive punishment, or negative punishment.

1. A very bright (mildly painful) light is turned on a rat. The rat has learned that he can turn off the light by pressing a lever on the other side of his cage. As soon as the light comes on, the rat runs across the room and presses the lever.
2. When a mother strokes her infant's skin, the stroking creates pleasure responses in the baby. After this goes on for many days, the baby begins to show pleasure responses simply at the sight of her mother (even before being touched).
3. A patient in a mental hospital is very disruptive at mealtimes. She grabs food from the plates of those sitting near her and tries to cram the food in her mouth. Because this behavior of stealing food is very undesirable, a plan is developed whereby every time the patient steals food from other plates, she is immediately taken to a room without food.
4. Imagine you have a friend who keeps the temperature in her home so high that each occasion on which you visit her you find yourself perspiring. The last time you visited her, you noticed that you began to perspire and became uncomfortable as soon as you saw her house (even before you got inside).
5. Fred leaves his clothes and toys all over his room. It seems that the only time he cleans up his room is when his mother yells at him. When she yells at him, Fred picks up his clothes and puts away his toys.