

Operant Conditioning

Operant Conditioning

- A type of learning in which behavior is strengthened if followed by reinforcement or diminished if followed by punishment.



REINFORCEMENT



PUNISHMENT



(a) Response: balancing a ball



(b) Consequence: receiving food



(c) Behavior strengthened

Is the organism learning associations between events that it doesn't control?

Classical Conditioning

Is the organism learning associations between its behavior and resulting events (punishment or reward)?

Operant Conditioning

OPERANT CONDITIONING	REINFORCEMENT (increase behavior)	PUNISHMENT (decrease behavior)
POSITIVE (adding something to the situation)	POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT	POSITIVE PUNISHMENT
NEGATIVE (removing something from the situation)	NEGATIVE REINFORCEMENT	NEGATIVE PUNISHMENT

REINFORCER

- Any event that **STRENGTHENS** the behavior it follows.



Two Types of Reinforcement:

Positive and Negative

Positive Reinforcement

- **STRENGTHENS** a behavior by **ADDING** a stimulus after a response



- **INCREASING** the behavior of doing chores by **ADDING** money

Positive Reinforcement

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

Behavior is followed by a desirable event or state.



\$10 for an A makes it more likely a student will earn more As.

Negative Reinforcement

- **STRENGTHENS** a behavior by **REMOVING** an aversive stimulus.



- **INCREASING** the behavior of smoking by **REMOVING** the anxiety

Negative Reinforcement

NEGATIVE REINFORCEMENT

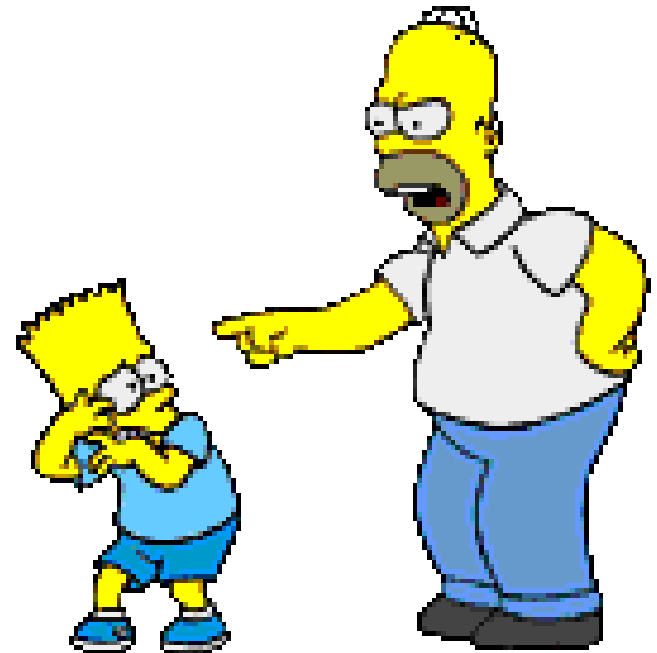
Behavior ends an undesirable event or state.



Taking aspirin relieves headaches and makes it more likely that aspirin will be taken in the future.

Punishment

- An event that
DECREASES the
behavior that it follows.



Positive Punishment

- **DECREASES** a behavior by **ADDING** a stimulus after a response.



- **DECREASING** the behavior of misbehaving by **ADDING** a spanking

Limitations of Punishment

- Punishment often only produces temporary suppression
- Punishment produces undesirable emotional side effects
- Children who are physically punished learn to model or imitate aggressive acts and often become more aggressive in their interactions with others
- Punishment **NEVER** teaches a new behavior



PUNISHMENT

"If [my daughters] make a mistake, I don't want them punished with a baby."
Senator Barack Obama