

Classical Conditioning

5 Main Processes

1. **ACQUISITION**- the initial stage in classical conditioning
 - the phase associating a neutral stimulus with an unconditioned stimulus so that the neutral stimulus comes to elicit a conditioned response
 - **Example:** Pavlov bringing in the food (the UCS) and then adding the bell (the neutral stimulus). Then...after conditioning the Neutral bells become a conditioned stimulus.
2. **EXTINCTION**- the diminishing of a conditioned response.
 - occurs in classical conditioning when an unconditioned stimulus (UCS) does not follow a conditioned stimulus (CS)
 - **Example:** Pavlov found that when he sounded the bells again and again without the presence of food, the dogs began to drool less and less. = taking the CS away slowly
3. **SPONTANEOUS RECOVERY**- the reappearance, after a rest period, of an extinguished conditioned response.
 - **Example:** after a period of extinction (ringing the bell less and less) then ringing the bell again, Pavlov noticed that the drooling would spontaneously reappear.
 - It is the reappearance of a (weakened) CR after a rest pause

4. **GENERALIZATION**: the tendency, once a response has been conditioned, for stimuli similar to the conditioned stimulus to elicit similar responses.

- **Example**: Pavlov noticed that a dog conditioned to the sound of a bell also began drooling when another type of bell rang.
- Generalization can be adaptive = little kids are taught to be cautious of cars on the street...they also generalize and then are cautious of motorcycles and trucks too.

5. **DISCRIMINATION**: the learned ability to distinguish between a conditioned stimulus and other stimuli that do not signal an unconditioned response.

- **Example**: Pavlov's dogs learned to respond to the sound of a particular bell and *not* to other bells. Therefore, they have learned to *distinguish* between the two.
- If you were attacked by a pit bull, then you would then be only scared in the presence of another pit bull. You would not be scared in front of a lab puppy.

