

Chapter 8- Learning

Classical Conditioning Group Activity

Below are several scenarios depicting classical conditioning? Read each story and try to determine the unconditioned stimulus (US), unconditioned response (UR), neutral stimulus which becomes the conditioned stimulus (NS -> CS), and conditioned response (CR). The scenarios increase in difficulty as the worksheet progresses.

Steps for answering each scenario:

1. Start by figuring out the NATURALLY OCCURRING, UNLEARNED, BIOLOGICAL stimulus and response connection in each scenario. This will help you identify the unconditioned stimulus and unconditioned response (the word unconditioned means "unlearned", aka "naturally occurring").
2. Then identify the stimulus that at first has no connection to the story/UCS & UCR. This will be the neutral stimulus. The neutral stimulus always becomes the conditioned stimulus (or some close derivative of it).
3. The conditioned response will usually be the same as the unconditioned response (or some close derivative of it). The point of classical conditioning is that a behavior begins as UNCONDITIONED (unlearned) and becomes CONDITIONED (learned).

Feed Yo Cat

Mr. Oksiuta goes to the humane society and adopts a brand new kitten named Gretta. He takes his wonderful fur ball home and presents her a delicious dish of yellowfin tuna and shrimp, which Mr. Oksiuta caught fresh from the sea with his bare hands. Upon presentation of her meal, Gretta begins salivating. For the next week, Mr. Oksiuta whistles right before he presents Gretta with her food. Eventually, Gretta begins salivating just from hearing Mr. Oksiuta's whistle alone.

1. What is the unconditioned stimulus?
2. What is the unconditioned response?
3. What is the neutral stimulus that becomes the conditioned stimulus?
4. What is the conditioned response?



Crystal Maiden

It's winter time for Jennie! Although she lives in South Carolina, an unusually cold winter has caused a snowfall in January. Jennie goes outside and immediately regrets her decision. The extremely low temperature causes Jennie to shiver in an attempt to warm her body up. As this is happening, Jennie also sees her first snowfall as small crystal flakes drop from the sky. As the harsh winter continues, Jennie notices something else as the weeks progress--sometimes when she wakes up in the morning and sees snow outside her window, she shivers even though it's 20° in her room!

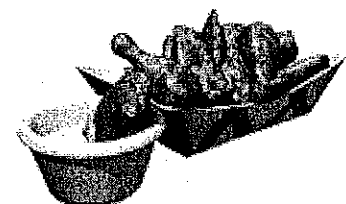
1. What is the unconditioned stimulus?
2. What is the unconditioned response?
3. What is the neutral stimulus that becomes the conditioned stimulus?
4. What is the conditioned response?



You Paid For This?

It's another lunch day at Happy Happy Secondary School which means chicken is on the menu. Aaron loves chicken, though, so he's a happy kid. As he's devouring "nuggets" of the dead bird, he suddenly gets sick and projectively vomits everywhere. It turns out the chicken wasn't cooked long enough. From that day on, just hearing that chicken is on the lunch menu during the daily announcements starts to make Aaron feel sick.

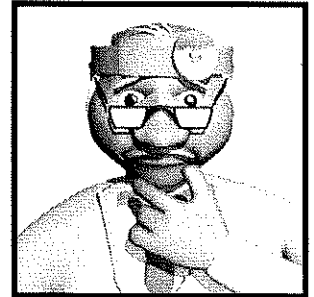
1. What is the unconditioned stimulus?
2. What is the unconditioned response?
3. What is the neutral stimulus that becomes the conditioned stimulus?
4. What is the conditioned response?



Nose Hair Double-Take

Jamal goes in for his yearly eye check-up. As part of his examination, the doctor needs to shoot a puff of air into Jamal's eye to check for glaucoma. This quick puff causes Jamal's eye to reflexively blink a few times. However, the doctor has to get extremely close to Jamal with his head tilted up when he performs the test, and Jamal can clearly see the doctor's nose hair sprouting out of his nostril when this happens. Curiously, whenever Jamal goes to trim his own nose hair in the mirror, he sometimes can't stop blinking.

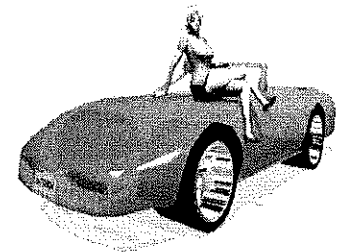
1. What is the unconditioned stimulus?
2. What is the unconditioned response?
3. What is the neutral stimulus that becomes the conditioned stimulus?
4. What is the conditioned response?



That Car Makes Me Feel... Aroused?

Have you ever noticed how many car commercials features sexy, scantily clad young women? Enrique is at home one day watching his favorite television show, "Jersey Shore," when suddenly a commercial comes on for the new Prius. Interestingly, in every shot of the car a very attractive woman is shown driving wearing a low-cut shirt. Additionally, a very sexy female voice narrates all of the features of the new Prius. From that day on, every time Enrique sees a Prius on the road, he feels arousal, but is a little confused by it.

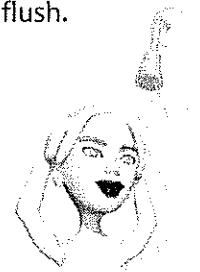
1. What is the unconditioned stimulus?
2. What is the unconditioned response?
3. What is the neutral stimulus that becomes the conditioned stimulus?
4. What is the conditioned response?



STOP FLUSHING!!!!

Kanjuchi is a grade 12 student. She is pretty typical teenager in that she has great difficulty getting up in the morning. Still, she forces herself out of bed and into the shower when her alarm goes off. Sometimes the water will turn scalding hot and Kanjuchi will begin screaming in pain. The reason for this is that her little brother, Tukufu, will flush the toilet. The pipes are connected which causes the change in water temperature. After enough occurrences of this happening, Kanjuchi has learned to quickly jump out of the shower when she hears the toilet flush.

1. What is the unconditioned stimulus?
2. What is the unconditioned response?
3. What is the neutral stimulus that becomes the conditioned stimulus?
4. What is the conditioned response?



The Emma Watson Question

Emma Watson is a girl that loves flowers. Everyday Emma receives a bouquet of roses from the love of her life, Mr. Oliver. When she sniffs the roses, she feels a tingling sensation which she loves. Every time she gets roses, she also receives a card that says, "Love always, xoxoxoxo, Mr. O." After enough deliveries, just the sight of the card alone makes Emma tingle. Later on, Mr. Oliver also includes a picture of his cat, Spiffy, with the card. Interestingly, Emma begins tingling whenever she sees a cat, although the tingle is not quite as strong as the one produced by smelling the flowers.

1. What is the unconditioned stimulus?
2. What is the unconditioned response?
3. What is the neutral stimulus that becomes the conditioned stimulus?
4. What is the conditioned response?
5. What is the higher-ordered neutral stimulus that becomes the conditioned stimulus?
6. What is the higher-ordered conditioned response?

