




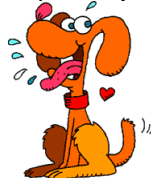


Psychology – Determinants of Animal Behaviour – Classical Conditioning

Ivan Pavlov's Work on Dogs

	Stimulus	Response
1	Unconditioned Stimulus (UCS) – Dog food 	Unconditioned Response (UCR) – Salivation 
2	Neutral Stimulus (NS) and Unconditioned Stimulus (UCS) 	Unconditioned Response (UCR) – Salivation 
3	Conditioned Stimulus (CS) 	Conditioned Response (CR) – Salivation 

Generalisation can occur with responses when stimuli are similar in some way. Discrimination is when no response occurs, and extinction when responses are lost. Spontaneous recovery of responses can occur following the presentation of the previous stimulus response.

Time Factors

Conditioning is generally greatest when the "to-be-conditioned" stimulus is presented a short time before the unconditioned stimulus.

Evaluation of Classical Conditioning

Classical conditioning is an important form of learning and can be used to explain many different behaviours in animals and humans, such as phobias:

One Trial Learning

Garcia et al. (1966) studied taste aversion in rats. They were given sugar-flavoured water followed by a drug that caused intestinal illness several hours later. Rats only needed to be sick once to avoid that water source later. This is called preparedness in which animals are biologically prepared to learn to behave in ways that will ensure their survival.

Language

Classical conditioning is much less important in humans than in other species because of language. Simply telling a person that an unconditioned stimulus will not be presented again can produce immediate extinction.

Even behaviour therapy, one of the apparently more successful attempts to apply principals of conditioning to human behaviour has given way to cognitive-behavioural therapy or simply cognitive therapy.