Classical Conditioning Worksheet

Directions: Six examples of classical conditioning are outlined in the following paragraphs. In each example, identify the unconditioned stimulus, unconditioned response, conditioned stimulus, and the conditioned response.

The Shower

When Lesage gets back to the dormitory after jogging around the campus, he likes to take a quick shower before going to class. One morning while taking a shower, he hears someone flushing a nearby toilet. Suddenly, extremely hot water comes rushing out of the showerhead and Lesage experiences excruciating pain. After muttering a few obscenities, he continues showering. A few minutes later, Lesage hears another toilet flush and he leaps out of the shower.

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 the Carousel I Want to Get Off

Najiah was ecstatic when she learned her family was going to the state fair next weekend. When her family arrived at the state fair the temperature was in excess of 100° F, but Najiah didn't care because she was finally there. Najiah stopped and watched some clowns performing next to the carousel. As she watched the silly antics of the clowns with the carousel music playing in the background, Najiah got more and more sweaty and uncomfortable. Eventually, she fainted from the heat. After that trip to the state fair, every time Najiah hears carousel musical she feels a little dizzy.

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?

When Good Tuna Goes Bad

Golas was really looking forward to lunch because his mother had prepared a tuna salad sandwich. Unfortunately, the mayonnaise she used had been left out too long and was spoiled. Not long after eating the sandwich, Golas felt sick and had to rush to the bathroom. Thereafter, the mere mention of a tuna sandwich would make Golas nauseous.

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?
**Kitties and Clickers**

Psychologists like to experiment on other organisms in their immediate environment, so Vanessa decided to perform a few experiments on her kitty, Precious. Vanessa had a little clicker that makes a loud ‘CLICK’ sound. She walked around the house, randomly clicking it for a while while Precious rested in the living room. Then Vanessa sat down with Precious, and used the flash on her camera to flash a bright light at the same time she clicked. Precious blinked because of the flash, and looked mildly annoyed. Vanessa repeated this process with her 4 times, then clicked the clicker, without using the flash. She still blinked! (She also looked very unhappy).

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?

**Kitties and Snappers**

After Straup heard about Vanessa’s experiment, she wanted to try something with her own cat. Straup’s cat, Rufo, tends to follow him around the house (unless he’s sleeping). When Straup feeds her, he puts her food dish on the floor. One day a few weeks ago, Straup tried a new procedure. After he put the food dish on the floor, he would snap her fingers, which was paired with her eating the food and licking her chops (yum!). One night about a week ago, a half hour or so before Straup normally feeds her, they were sitting on the couch. Straup decided to try snapping her fingers to see if there was any classical conditioning — Rufo looked at Straup and licked her chops!

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?

**Mmmm…. Liver!!**

Weigand and his sidekick, LaRoche, went out on the town in Manhattan one evening, to a swanky restaurant. Weigand and LaRoche saw a new food item on the menu (Fois Gras, which is seared goose liver), and decided to try it. LaRoche found it delicious, as did Weigand. After retiring to bed that night, LaRoche became nauseous, had a headache, and slept poorly. LaRoche has tried eating fois gras since then, but when looking at it, he immediately feels nauseous and can’t eat it. (hint: Food aversion is a special case of classical conditioning which requires only one pairing of the stimuli)

5. What is the unconditioned stimulus?
6. What is the unconditioned response?
7. What is the neutral stimulus that becomes the conditioned stimulus?
8. What is the conditioned response?
Classical Conditioning Worksheet Answers

The Shower
unconditioned stimulus: hot water
unconditioned response: pain
neutral stimulus / conditioned stimulus: flushing of toilet
conditioned response: jumping out of the shower

Stop the Carousel I Want to Get Off
unconditioned stimulus: extreme heat (temperature above 100)
unconditioned response: fainting
neutral stimulus / conditioned stimulus: carousel music
conditioned response: feeling dizzy

When Good Tuna Goes Bad
unconditioned stimulus: spoiled mayonnaise
unconditioned response: getting sick
neutral stimulus / conditioned stimulus: mention of tuna
conditioned response: feel nauseous

Kitties and Clickers
unconditioned stimulus: bright flash
unconditioned response: eye blink
neutral stimulus / conditioned stimulus: clicking sound
conditioned response: eye blink

Kitties and Snappers
unconditioned stimulus: eating/tasting the food
unconditioned response: licking her chops
neutral stimulus / conditioned stimulus: snapping fingers
conditioned response: licking her chops

Mmmm… Liver!!!
unconditioned stimulus: eating liver
unconditioned response: nausea
neutral stimulus / conditioned stimulus: seeing/thinking about liver
conditioned response: nausea