

Warning: Just knowing definitions is not sufficient understanding!

Unconditioned Stimulus (US): A stimulus that elicits a response without training.

Unconditioned Response (UR): Response elicited by the US.

Conditioned Stimulus (CS): A stimulus which typically does not elicit a response initially, but comes to elicit a response after pairing with an unconditioned stimulus.

Conditioned Response (CR): The response elicited by the CS after conditioning.

Trial: In the standard case of Pavlovian conditioning, a trial is one pairing of the CS and the US. Often, however, it also refers to occasions when the CS occurs by itself.

Inter-stimulus interval (ISI): The time interval between the beginning of the CS and the beginning of the US

Inter-trial Interval (ITI): The time interval between the beginning of the CS of one trial to the beginning of the CS on the following trial.

Acquisition: The gradual emergence of the CR.

Asymptote: The steady high level of the CR after training.

Generalization: Responding to a test stimulus after training using a different stimulus.

Discrimination: Differential responding to two stimuli.

Generalization Gradient: The curve produced by measuring the response to a variety of stimuli.

Sensitization: Increase in the strength of a response due to repeated presentations of the stimulus by itself.

Pseudoconditioning: An increase in the response to a CS due to repeated presentations of the US alone.

Interaction effect: When the effect of two variables together is different than the sum of their independent effects.

Autonomic responses: Responses produced by activation of the autonomic nervous system, which controls glands and smooth muscle activity.

Skeletal/motor responses: Responses of skeletal muscles, which are controlled by the CNS.

Sign tracking: General term for approach and contact of a signal associated with a good US.

Conditioned Emotional Response (CER), Conditioned Suppression: Procedure for measuring a conditioned fear response by observing the suppression of behavior.

Suppression Ratio: A ratio normalization for the measurement of conditioned suppression. The standard calculation is $B/(A+B)$, where B is the responding during the CS and A is the responding during an equivalent period of time before the presentation of the CS.

Extinction: Elimination of the CR as a result of presenting the previously trained CS by itself.

Spontaneous recovery: Increase in the strength of an extinguished CR after a period of time following the last extinction trial.

Savings: When something about prior conditioning is preserved even after extinction of the CR.