

HANDOUT 4

Reinforcement and Punishment

Identify the type of operant conditioning illustrated in each example. Consider these questions for each.

- a. What behavior is changing?
- b. Is the behavior increasing (reinforcement) or decreasing (punishment)?
- c. Is something being added to the person's experience (positive) or being subtracted (negative)?

PR = Positive reinforcement

P = Positive punishment

NR = Negative reinforcement

NP = Negative punishment

- _____ 1. When Olivia makes rude noises at the dinner table, she gets her mouth washed out with soap. She doesn't make rude noises that often anymore.
- _____ 2. Little Joey gets yelled at when he acts up in class. Now he's acting up even more.
- _____ 3. Because Tameka earned an A in each of her classes, she doesn't have to do her usual chore of vacuuming this month. She's studying even more now.
- _____ 4. Ray came home past his curfew, so he was not allowed to drive for the following week. He hasn't missed a curfew since.
- _____ 5. Maria put in extra hours at work helping her boss finish a major project. She received a big bonus for her contributions. She's now looking for other ways to contribute at work.
- _____ 6. When Thuy and Gurpreet were running around the living room, they crashed into the Xbox, breaking it. They no longer run through the living room.
- _____ 7. Chandler's girlfriend, Monica, keeps bugging him to take her dancing. He finally agrees, and she quits bugging him. The next time she starts bugging him, he quickly agrees to do whatever it is. (Chandler's behavior is changing.)
- _____ 8. Monica's boyfriend, Chandler, gives in when she starts bugging him about something. Now whenever she wants something, she just starts bugging him. (Monica's behavior is changing.)