

Classical Conditioning Practice Examples - **Answers**

1. Geraldine had an automobile accident at the corner of 32nd and Cherry Avenue. Whenever she approaches the intersection now, she begins to feel uncomfortable; her heart begins to beat faster, she gets butterflies in her stomach, and her palms become sweaty (she experiences anxiety/fear). **UCS = Automobile Accident; UCR = Anxiety (feel uncomfortable; heart racing, etc) because of accident; CS = Intersection; CR = Anxiety about intersection**
2. Calvin was chased and assaulted by an aggressive rooster when he was just barely three years old. As an adult he still won't go near or even be around a rooster and he even gets a little anxious when he hears the word rooster. He also claims that all birds make him nervous. *In addition to identifying the UCS, etc, identify why even the word rooster causes him a little anxiety and why he feels anxiety toward all birds.* **UCS = Assault; UCR = Fear of Assault; CS = Rooster; CR = Fear of roosters; The word rooster has been associated with the primary CS (rooster) and has become a secondary CS (higher-order conditioning). All birds make Calvin a little nervous because of stimulus generalization.**
3. Suzy goes outside to play in her tree house. A swarm of bees has nested near her house, and she gets stung several times when she climbs up to the tree house. This happens 3 times in a week. Suzy then becomes afraid to go near the tree and cries violently when her dad tries to get her to climb up to the tree house. **UCS = Getting stung; UCR = Pain (fear of getting stung); CS = Tree house; CR = Fear of Tree House.**
4. Jerry's wife, Mary, gets a new nightgown and wears it whenever she is in the mood for sexual relations. After a month, the sight of the nightgown alone is enough to excite Jerry. **UCS = Mary being in the mood for sex; UCR = Arousal because Mary is in the mood for sex; CS = nightgown; CR = Arousal to nightgown.**
5. A student survives a plane crash that occurred because of a thunderstorm. Now, whenever the student hears thunder, he gets anxious. **UCS = Plane Crash; UCR = Fear because of plane crash; CS = thunder; CR = fear of thunder.**
6. While caring for a friend's dog, you notice that it displays a fear-like posture as you roll up a newspaper. You try this several times more and become convinced that this dog is generally afraid of rolled-up newspapers. *You must infer on your own what happened to make this dog afraid of rolled-up newspapers in order to identify the processes. Describe the situation and then identify the processes. Your friend is hitting the dog with a rolled up newspaper.* **UCS = Getting Hit; UCR = pain (fear) of getting hit; CS = rolled up newspaper; CR = fear of rolled up newspaper.**
7. Joan, an animal trainer, has been phobic about monkeys since an earlier attack. However, because of the money, she has agreed to work with monkeys for a movie studio. At first, just going anywhere near the cages makes Joan tense, sweaty and apprehensive. Lately, though, things have changed. Working with such cuddly, affectionate, human-like creatures is causing Joan to wonder why she ever felt such extreme distress. *This is an example of counterconditioning similar to the example of Peter and the Rabbit. You should be able to infer what original UCS, UCR, CS, and CR were to make Joan afraid of the monkeys and identify them. You should also be able to identify the processes from the counterconditioning (what made her no longer afraid of monkeys).* **Original Conditioning: UCS = Attack; UCR = Pain (fear of attack); CS = monkeys; CR = fear of monkeys. Counterconditioning: UCS = Affection and Cuddling; UCR = good feeling because of affection and cuddling; CS = monkeys; CR = good feeling toward monkeys.**

8. Early in their relationship, the mere sight of Donna excited Jack. This gradually died out, however, as Donna behaved tolerantly, but indifferently. When the relationship ended, Jack was bored with Donna and didn't even think about her for the next year. Now, he was surprised at how excited he was becoming as he saw Donna through the window of a bus. *You will also have to infer what the original conditioning was to identify UCS and UCR in this example. You should also be able to identify some principles of CC in this example.* **UCS = Sex or Mutual Attraction; UCR = Excitement because of sex or mutual attraction; CS = Diana; CR = excitement because of Diana; When Diana begins to act indifferently, he quits associating sex with or being attracted by Diana and extinction occurs. After they broke up and he hadn't seen her for awhile, he experiences spontaneous recovery of the conditioned response (excitement toward Diana) that had previously been extinguished. However, it was a less intense response.**
9. Bill visited a restaurant in the beginning of November and ordered the chicken. Afterwards, he became extremely sick and nauseated. Ever since then, he has been unable to even think about chicken without becoming nauseated. He went home for Thanksgiving and his mother has cooked a golden brown turkey. He was quite surprised to find that he felt slightly nauseated to the smell and sight of the turkey. However, he didn't feel nauseated to the smell or sight of the roasted duck his cousin brought to the dinner. *In addition to identifying all of the processes, you should also be able to identify at least 2 principles.* **UCS = Food poisoning; UCR = becoming sick due to poisoning; CS = chicken; CR = becoming nauseated at thought of chicken; Bill is experiencing stimulus generalization because the turkey is very similar to his original CS of chicken. However, the duck is not similar enough to chicken to produce stimulus generalization and therefore, Bill is experiencing stimulus discrimination with the duck.**