

HANDOUT 5

Forms of Reinforcement and Punishment

	Reinforcement: Behavior increases or strengthens over time	Punishment: Behavior decreases or weakens over time
Positive: Results in receiving something	(Reinforcer is something given and desired)	(Punisher is something given and aversive)
Negative: Results in having something taken away, removed	(Reinforcer is something taken away and aversive)	(Punisher is something taken away and desired)

HANDOUT 6

Reinforcement Schedules

In real life, continuous reinforcement is rare. Sometimes responses are reinforced, sometimes not. Among the most important schedules of partial reinforcement are the fixed ratio (FR), variable ratio (VR), fixed interval (FI), and variable interval (VI). Identify the schedule in the examples below by writing your answer—FR, VR, FI, or VI—in the spaces on the left.

- _____ 1. A senior citizen buying state lottery tickets and winning.
- _____ 2. A hotel maid may take a 15-minute break only after having cleaned three rooms.
- _____ 3. A man watches and sees shooting stars on a dark night.
- _____ 4. A teenager receives an allowance every Saturday.
- _____ 5. A woman checks the front porch for a newspaper when the delivery person is extremely unpredictable.
- _____ 6. A professional baseball player gets a hit approximately every third time at bat.
- _____ 7. A teenager checks the oven to see if chocolate chip cookies are done, when baking time is known.
- _____ 8. A blueberry picker receives \$1 after filling 3 pint boxes.
- _____ 9. A charitable organization makes an average of 10 phone calls for every donation it receives.
- _____ 10. A busy executive calls a garage mechanic to see if her car is fixed yet.
- _____ 11. A student's final grade improves one level for every three book reviews submitted.
- _____ 12. A student goes to the cafeteria to see if the next meal is available.