

Classical Conditioning

Pavlov's famous Classical Conditioning experiments became one of the first learning theories and contributed to the notion of psychology as an objective science. In being a physiologist, not a psychologist (he was very emphatic about this), Pavlov sought a scientific explanation of why dogs' will start salivating before they have seen food. It was found that almost any stimulus could have the same effect of salivation if paired with the presentation of the original stimulus often enough. It was this

To establish if there can be salivation with the pairing of a stimulus, Pavlov decided to use the bell as the Conditioned Stimulus, so-called because it was being paired with Food (US) to elicit salivation. Pavlov rang the bell, then fed the dogs'. After doing this repeatedly, the pairing of food and bell eventually established the dog's Conditioned Response of salivating to the sound of the bell. After repeatedly doing this pairing, Pavlov removed the food and when ringing this bell the dog would salivate. The key is that the food and bell have to be paired often enough, so that the dog could learn to associate the bell with food. - Classical Conditioning.



Food is the Unconditioned Stimulus (US). This means that the food causes

Food is the Unconditioned Stimulus (US). This means that the food causes the response of salivation without previous learning.

Bell is the Conditioned Stimulus (CS). This is the stimulus which is paired with the food to make the dog eventually salivate to just the sound of the bell alone.

Salivation is initially the Unconditioned Response (UR) when paired with the food (US), and eventually becomes the Conditioned Response (CR) when paired with the bell.