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What is Learning?

- **Learning** = a persistent change in an organisms behavior
 - At a basic level, learning can be thought about *associations*
 - * Kind of similar to **classical conditioning**
 - A **neutral stimulus** preceeds an **unconditioned stimulus**, and the neutral stimulus produces a response to anticipate the unconditioned response

Classical Conditioning

- **Classical Conditioning**
 - **Unconditioned stimulus(UCS)** = a stimulus that *naturally* triggers a response
 - * The dog senses food and salivates
 - **Unconditioned response(UCR)** = an unlearned response that naturally happens as a result of a UCS
 - **Neutral stimulus** = a stimulus that does not trigger a UCR
 - **Conditioned stimulus** = a neutral stimulus that has become a trigger for the desired UCR through a process of classical conditioning
 - * The response is now called a **conditioned response**
 - Two steps of classical conditioning
 1. **Acquisition** = the initial stage where the association is made
 2. **Extinction** = the gradual reduction in the strength of the association
 - **Generalization** = the application of a conditioned behavior to a broader set of stimuli then intended
 - * *e.g.*
 - a child thinking every tall male person is their dad
 - Conditioning only works when the UCS and neutral stimulus are paired in close proximity during acquisition