



Applications of Reinforcement

Psychology 390
Psychology of Learning

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Token Economies

- Is designed to provide secondary reinforcers (tokens) for appropriate behavior.
- Can also be removed for inappropriate behavior.
- Is often used in group homes, educational settings, and institutional settings.

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Usually

- Give tokens for appropriate behavior.
- Remove tokens for inappropriate behavior.

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Tokens

- Tokens can be anything
 - Stars
 - Coins
 - Cigarettes

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Educational Settings

- Can use token economies for early grades to increase student performance
 - Stars
- Can use VI pop quizzes to increase studying behavior for college students.
 - Especially, if the quizzes are worth a lot of points.

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Work Settings

- Applications of reinforcement applications can increase work performance.
 - Bonuses for work completion.
 - Use of FR schedules.
- Use of FI schedules can be ineffective in increasing behavior.
 - Delay is long between reinforcers (every two weeks)
 - Get post reinforcement pauses.
 - Poor work performance on Mondays after Friday paydays.

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Medical Settings

- Use reinforcers to for weight reduction, food control for diabetes, etc.
- Good job for flossing,
- Insurance reductions for not smoking, weight control, etc can increase “healthy” behaviors.

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Counseling Settings

- Use of reinforcement is mandatory in making behavioral changes.
- Can be used in family counseling, child counseling, or individual counseling, etc.

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Domestic Companions (Pets)

- Use shaping with reinforcement.
- Can modify many types of behavior.

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Conclusion

- Reinforcement applications can be used everywhere and generally with everything.

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