PSYCHOLOGY AND LEARNING

To survive, animals must adapt to their environments. Evolution by natural selection is the long-term adaptive process that equips each species for life within a certain range of environmental conditions. But the environment is never constant; it changes from place to place and from time to time, even during short periods of an individual's life. To be efficient in finding foods, finding mates, avoiding predators, and carrying out the other necessities of survival and reproduction, animals must adapt to the ever changing conditions of the specific environments in which they live. In other words, they must learn.

The term 'learning' is used in various ways by different psychologists to refer to a wide variety of phenomena. For our purposes, however, we can define it broadly as *any process through which experience at one time can alter an individual's behaviour at a future time*. Experience in this definition refers to any effects of the environment that are mediated by the individual's sensory systems (vision, hearing, touch and so on). Behaviour at a future time refers to any subsequent behaviour that is not part of the individual's immediate response to the sensory stimulation during the learning experience. If I make a clicking sound just before flashing a bright light into your eyes, your immediate response to the click or the light (such as blinking) does not exemplify learning. Your increased tendency to blink to the click alone, next time I present the sound, however, does exemplifies learning.


I am
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Your
Personal
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Your
Kids
Maths n Science
Buddy
Your
Personal
Marketer/
Promoter
Hire Me
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