Reinforcement vs. Punishment

Instructions. For each example presented below, identify whether positive reinforcement (PR), negative reinforcement (NR), or punishment (PUN) is illustrated by placing the appropriate abbreviation in the blank next to the item.

__PR___ 1. Police pulling drivers over and giving prizes for buckling up

__PUN___ 2. Suspending a basketball player for committing a flagrant foul

__NR___ 3. A soccer player rolling her eyes at a teammate who delivered a bad pass

_NR____ 4. A child snapping her fingers until her teacher calls on her

_PR____ 5. A hospital patient being allowed extra visiting time after eating a complete meal

__PR___ 6. Receiving a city utility discount for participating in a recycling program

___PUN__ 7. Grounding a teenager until his or her homework is finished

__PUN___ 8. Scolding a child for playing in the street

__PUN___ 9. A prisoner losing TV privileges for one week for a rule violation

__NR___ 10. A parent nagging a child to clean up her room

__NR___ 11. A rat pressing a lever to terminate a shock or a loud tone

___PR__ 12. A professor giving extra credit to students with perfect attendance

__PUN___ 13. A dog being banished to his doghouse after soiling the living room carpet

__PUN___ 14. A defendant being harassed and tortured until he confesses

___PR__ 15. A young child receiving $5 for earning good grades in school

__PR___ 16. A mother smiling when her child utters “Mama”

_PUN____ 17. A child being put into “time out” for misbehaving

___PR__ 18. Employee of the month getting a reserved parking space

___NR__ 19. At a party, a husband becoming sullen when his wife flirts with a colleague

_PR____ 20. A woman watching a football game offers her child candy to play quietly

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