

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