

Reinforcement vs. Punishment

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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.

- NR1. Police pulling drivers over and giving prizes for buckling up
- P 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
- P 7. Grounding a teenager until his or her homework is finished
- NR 8. Scolding a child for playing in the street
- P 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
- P 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
- P 13. A dog being banished to his doghouse after soiling the living room carpet
- NR 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”
- P 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