

## Operant Conditioning Worksheet #2

Identify as positive reinforcement, negative reinforcement, positive punishment, or negative punishment.

NOTE: As you get into the later examples, focus on the EFFECT ON BEHAVIOR over the intention of the person giving the consequence.

1. Emily is a very quiet, introverted, hardworking 5th grader who gets straight A's but who never volunteers in class, has only one friend and, in general, seems to be scared to death of people. Her teacher is particularly impressed with Emily's performance on an arithmetic test and announces to the class that since Emily got the highest grade, she will lead the pledge of allegiance everyday for a week. Emily's performance on the next arithmetic test is quite poor. The number of correct answers she gives drops to the lowest she has ever had.
2. Every time Billy misbehaves in his 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class, his teacher comes right over to him and sternly tells him to stop. Billy starts to misbehave more and more.
3. At the dinner table, Christopher, aged 2, threw his spoon across the table and said "Steerike One!" Everyone laughed so hard that he continued to do this five or six times at each meal for the next two months.
4. On Monday, Tony slammed the screen door 3 out of 8 times as he left the house. Each time his mother would give him a tongue lashing. "Tony, I have told you 'till I'm blue in the face DON'T SLAM THE SCREEN DOOR!!" On Tuesday, Tony slammed the screen door 7 out of 8 times.
5. When Jennifer's mother drops her off at day care each morning, Jennifer screams and yells. When she does this, her mother stays and pays attention to her for a few minutes more. Jennifer's screaming and crying goes on for a long time each morning.
6. John and Martha were married. Sometimes when John did not do what Martha asked him, she would sulk. Martha became ill, and John decided he had to "humor" her so when she sulked he started doing whatever it was she had requested. Martha eventually became quite a sulker. How is Martha being conditioned here?