

Three Term Contingency: The ABCs of Learning

- A: Antecedent conditions are said to set the occasion for responding.
- B: Behavioral response is emitted by the organism when antecedent conditions are present.
- C: Consequence occurs as a result of responding.

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Given the Antecedent conditions are present, now is the time to emit the Behavior because responding will be followed by a particular Consequence.

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Given the **A**ntecedent conditions are present, now is the time to emit the **B**ehavior because responding will be followed by a particular **C**onsequence.

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Example 01:

When you're in Uncle J.R.'s psychology class saying something clever about a psychological topic will result in acknowledgement, recognition, perhaps even praise or class participation credit.

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Example 02:

Saying something clever about a psychological topic when you're in your algebra class will result in either being ignored or rebuffed.

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Example 03:

In addition, saying something clever about a psychological topic when you're in another psychology class may also result in acknowledgement, recognition, praise and so forth.