

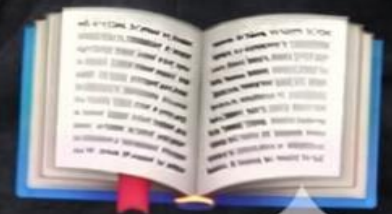


Let's Study Together 

LEARNING

DEFINITION

WHAT IS LEARNING?



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What is Learning ??

Learning plays a central role in shaping personality and behaviour.

Begins at birth (even in the womb) and continues throughout life.

Experience (direct or indirect) modifies behaviour
— e.g., touching a flame teaches avoidance.

Key Definitions

Woodworth (1945): Any activity that develops the individual and alters behaviour/experiences.

Kingsley & Garry (1957): Behaviour originates or changes through practice/training.

Hilgard (1958): Activity originates/changes due to encountered situations, excluding native responses, maturation, or temporary states.

Kimble (1961): Relatively permanent change in behavioural potentiality due to reinforced practice.

Key Definitions(Contd.....)



Henry P. Smith (1962): Acquisition of new behaviour or strengthening/weakening of old behaviour via experience.



Pressey, Robinson & Horrocks (1967): Motivated individual adapts behaviour to succeed in goal-oriented situations.



Gardner Murphy (1968): Modification in behaviour to meet environmental requirements.



Crow & Crow (1973): Acquisition of habits, knowledge, attitudes; progressive behavioural changes; adjustment to new situations.

Key Facts about Learning

Learning is a **process, not a product.**

Involves experiences and training from birth that produce behavioural changes.

Behavioural changes may be **positive or negative.**

Learning can also mean **discontinuance/unlearning** of existing behaviour.

Prepares individuals for **adjustment and adaptation.**

Learning is **purposeful and goal-oriented**.

Scope is wide — covers **conative, cognitive, and affective** aspects of behaviour.

Learning is **universal and continuous** — from womb to tomb.

Excludes changes due to **instincts, reflexes, maturation, fatigue, illness, or drugs**.

Changes due to learning are **relatively permanent**, not absolutely permanent.

Learning and Imprinting

- **Concept of Imprinting**

- Term first used in **1930s** by **Konrad Lorenz** (Austrian ethologist).
- Describes **attachment behaviour** of newborn birds to the first large moving object in their environment.
- It is **instinctive, species-specific**, and occurs during a **critical period** soon after birth.

Lorenz's Experiments



Ducklings & goslings followed their mother immediately after hatching (stimulated by movement and sound).



Replaced mother with a **football** → birds followed the ball.



Lorenz himself acted as the first moving object → goslings followed him instead of their real mother, even showing distress when prevented.

Key Findings

Imprinting = strong connection/attachment to the **first perceived moving object**.

Independent of training or experience → an **inborn perceptual process**.

Serves as a **survival mechanism** (safety, security, attachment).

Distinction from Learning



Learning = behavioural change through **experience/practice**.



Imprinting = **instinctive, inborn mechanism** triggered by environmental stimulus during critical period.



Therefore, imprinting is **not classified as learning**.

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LEARNING PART 1



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