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A S S O C I A T E S



TOEFL

**TOEFL  
SPEAKING  
PRACTICE  
TEST - 3**

By Divine Training  
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## Speaking Practice test - 3

### Behavior Modification

Narrator                      Now read the passage from a psychology textbook. You have 45 seconds to read the passage. Begin reading now.

Reading Time: 45 seconds

### Behavior Modification

Individuals often modify their behavior based on what they have learned about the possible consequences of their actions. When an individual learns through experience that a certain behavior results in pleasant consequences, that behavior is likely to be

repeated. An unpleasant consequence, on the other hand, discourages further repetition of the behavior. While behavior modification can be observed in experiments, it also occurs frequently in everyday settings, when individuals change their behavior based on what they have learned about the consequences of that behavior.

Narrator

Now listen to part of a lecture on the topic in a psychology class.

Male Student

This happens all the time with kids, in schools. Say there's a little boy or girl who's just starting school. Well, they're not really used to the rules about proper behavior for a classroom,

so at the beginning, they might, I don't know, interrupt the teacher, walk around the classroom when they're supposed to be sitting down. You know, just misbehaving in general. OK, but what happens? Well, the teacher gets angry with them when they act this way. They might get punished--they have to sit at their desks when everyone else is allowed to go outside and play. And they certainly don't like that. Soon they'll learn that this kind of behavior gets them in trouble. They'll

also learn that when they raise their hand to talk to the teacher and sit quietly and pay attention during class... they're rewarded. The teacher tells them she's proud of them, and maybe puts little happy-face stickers on their homework. Now that their behavior gets a good reaction from the teacher, the kids learn to always act this way in class... and not behave the way they used to.

Using the example from the lecture, explain what behavior modification is and how it works.

If this were an actual test question, you would have 30 seconds to prepare your response and 60 seconds to record your response.

Preparation Time: 30 seconds
Record Time: 60 seconds

This is a high-level response.

*Transcript: Behavior modification is defined as uh people's, uh chan-people's changing their behavior based on their experiences about the consequences of the behaviors. And according to reading too, the patt-um, behavior modification can be observed both in experiments and in real life. The professor gives a example of-of observation of the modification in real life about kids. First when kids first moved in school, they do not know the rules, so they do things like, uh,*

walking around when they're not supposed to or talking, uh, when teacher's speaking. This behaviors will result in punishments like um, the teacher's, uh, reproaching them about how inappropriate that is. And soon--soon they learn to behave better, um, because uh if they learn to raise hands, um, and or keeps out in the class is more pleasant, teachers praise them, through this they learned, um, this behavior is better for them.

Overall, the speaker is clear and easy to understand. His pronunciation is generally good and he uses intonation effectively to express meaning. He is able to use a range of simple and complex grammatical structures and vocabulary to express his ideas, although he makes several minor errors such as errors

in agreement (“this behaviors”) and dropping pronouns and articles (“learn to raise [their] hands”). These errors don’t obscure meaning for the listener. His vocabulary use is often very precise and effective (“...reproaching them about how inappropriate that is...”). His definition of behavior modification is clear and accurate. He is able to summarize key points from the lecture to support the definitions. Overall, this is a mostly coherent and accurate synthesis of the reading and listening material.