

Reinforcement vs. Punishment

For each example below, identify whether positive reinforcement (PR), negative reinforcement (NR), positive punishment (PP), or negative punishment (NP) is illustrated by placing the appropriate abbreviation next to the item.

1. Police pulling drivers over and giving prizes for buckling up. **PR**
2. Suspending a basketball player for committing a flagrant foul. **NP**
3. A soccer player rolls her eyes at a teammate who delivered a bad pass. **PP**
4. A child snaps her fingers until her teacher calls on her. **NR**
5. A hospital patient is allowed extra visiting time after eating a complete meal. **PR**
6. Receiving a city utility discount for participating in a recycling program. **PR**
7. Grounding a teenager until his or her homework is finished. **NR**
8. Scolding a child for playing in the street. **PP**
9. A prisoner loses TV privileges for one week for a rule violation. **NP**
10. A parent nagging a child to clean up her room. **NR**
11. A rat presses a lever to terminate a shock or a loud noise. **NR**
12. A professor gives extra credit to students with perfect attendance. **PR**
13. A dog is banished to his doghouse after soiling the living room carpet. **PP (?)**
14. A defendant is harassed and tortured until he confesses. **NR**
15. A young child receives \$5 for earning good grades in school. **PR**
16. A mother smiles when her child utters “mama.” **PR**
17. A child is put into “time out” for misbehaving. **NP**
18. Employee of the month gets a reserved parking space. **PR**
19. At a party, a husband becomes sullen when his wife flirts with a colleague. **PP**
20. A woman watching a football game offers her child candy to play quietly. **PR**