

# Behaviorism

## About behaviorism

Some of the oldest learning theories belong to the behaviorism as [learning paradigm](#) and date back from the beginning of the 20th century.

Behaviorists view **learning as a visible change in ones behavior**. Behaviorism assumes that the learner starts off as a clear state and simply responds to environmental stimuli. Those responses **can be shaped through positive and negative reinforcement** increasing or decreasing the probability of repeating the same behavior.

The key component to this paradigm are observable behaviors and their measuring.

## Learning theories:

- [Clasicall conditioning \(Ivan Pavlov, 1849-1936\)](#)
- [Operant conditioning \(Burrhus Skinner, 1904-1990\)](#)

## Important contributors:

- John Watson, Ivan Pavlov, Burrhus Skinner, Edward Thorndike, Edward Tolman

## Critic

Behaviorism today mostly **lost its influence** and let **cognitivism take its place** as the dominant paradigm. Critics of behaviorist learning usually argue that behaviorism **does not explain all kinds of learning** since it ignores inner mind activities. Behaviorism also neglects the fact that behavior also depends on learners inner subjective representation of environment and learning history.

## Bibliography

[Stanford encyclopedia of philosophy: Behaviorism](#)

## Read more

Turner, M. B. Philosophy and the science of behavior. New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts. 1967.

Skinner, B. F. About Behaviorism. Paw Prints, 2008.

Baum, William M. Understanding behaviorism: science, behavior, and culture. Wiley-Blackwell, 1994.

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Last update: **2023/06/19 15:49**