

The behaviourist approach: how do we learn?

You are learning about...	You are learning how to...
Different theories of learning in the behaviourist approach	Analyse real-world situations Distinguish between different types of learning

Peter, Paul and Mary have all learned something new, but each has learned it in a different way. Analyse each example to work out *what* it is that each child has learned, *how* they have learned it and *how we know* they have learned something new.

Peter was playing in the garden when he heard a buzzing noise coming from a hollow log. He reached inside the log to find out what was causing the noise and was stung on the hand by a wasp. This hurt a lot and he was very upset. Later on that day he was in the kitchen with his dad when a fly flew into the room, buzzing loudly. Peter immediately became very anxious. He stopped what he was doing and started frantically looking around the room.

Paul is always forgetting to bring the right things to school and it gets him into trouble a lot. He doesn't like being in trouble and so he has been becoming quite anxious about going to school. Today he decided to check his bag very thoroughly to make sure his things were in it. He put his bag on his lap, opened it and then counted his books three times to make sure they were all there. Then he opened his pencil case and took out in turn his pen, pencil and ruler before replacing them. Once he had done this he felt much less anxious. However, a short time later he started to worry again, so he checked his bag again, in the same way. Once again, he felt better afterwards.

Mary and her friend were playing with some old flower pots they found in the garden shed. Mary looked inside one and found a big spider. She was quite interested by this but as soon as her friend saw it she screamed and ran away. Mary dropped the flowerpot in surprise and ran after her friend, who was very scared. Later on, Mary was playing in the house when a spider scurried across the floor near where she was playing. She suddenly screamed and ran to her mother. Her mother was surprised because Mary had previously only shown curiosity towards small creatures.