

Lesson 11: Echoic Behavior (OA)



This lesson describes three key factors in classifying verbal behavior and then defines and provides examples of echoic behavior.

≡ Three Factors in Classifying Verbal Behavior

≡ Definition of Echoic Behavior

≡ Irrelevant Features of Echoic Behavior

≡ Echoic Behavior Example #1

≡ Echoic Behavior Non-Example #1

≡ Echoic Behavior Example #2

🔍 Knowledge Check

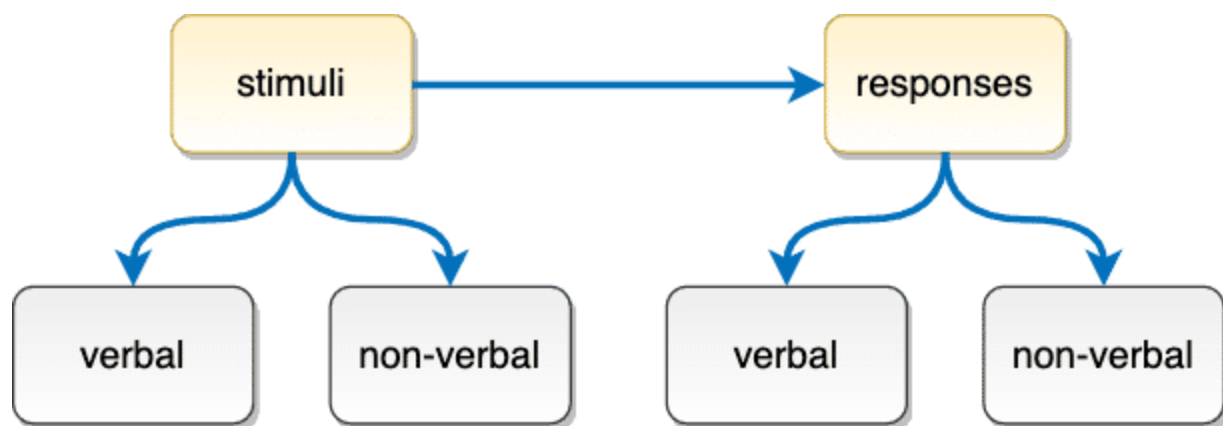
≡ Review

Three Factors in Classifying Verbal Behavior



00:50

The first step in an analysis of verbal behavior is to classify the different types of relationships between controlling variables and verbal responses. This classification is based upon 3 factors: the musculature involved in the behavior (either those muscles used in speaking or writing), the type of controlling variable (verbal stimulus, non-verbal stimulus, or establishing operation), and the nature of the controlling relationship (point-to-point correspondence, formal similarity, or neither). This classification represents the basic building blocks of verbal behavior. As you'll see in later lessons, they often combine with one another or can themselves become controlling variables for other types of more complex verbal relationships. Let's look at echoic behavior first.



Three Key Factors in Classifying Verbal Behavior

1

Musculature involved in the behavior

2

Type of controlling variable

3

Nature of the controlling relationship

Definition of Echoic Behavior



00:17

Echoic behavior is verbal behavior in which the response is vocal and controlled by a prior auditory verbal stimulus, there is point-to-point correspondence between the stimulus and the response, and there is formal similarity between the prior stimulus and the response-product.

Echoic Behavior

A form of verbal behavior with the following features:

DEFINING FEATURES

•	The response is vocal
•	It is controlled by a prior auditory verbal stimulus
•	There is point-to-point correspondence between the stimulus and the response

- There is formal similarity between the prior stimulus and the response-product

Irrelevant Features of Echoic Behavior



00:14

When classifying echoic behavior, the formal and dynamic characteristics of the stimulus and the response are **irrelevant**, as is the “meaning” of either the stimulus or the response and whether or not the current response is reinforced.

Echoic Behavior

A form of verbal behavior with the following features:

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

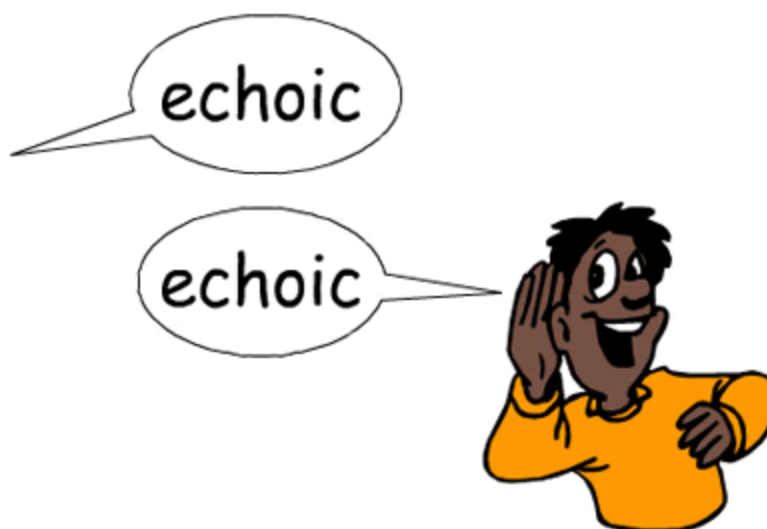
•	Formal and dynamic characteristics of both the stimulus and the response
•	The "meaning" of either the stimulus or the response
•	Whether or not the current response is reinforced

Echoic Behavior Example #1



00:12

Speaking non-technically, **echoic behavior** involves saying what you have just heard someone say. Saying “echoic” as the result of hearing someone say “echoic” is an example of echoic behavior.



Note how this example has all of the defining features of echoic behavior:

Echoic Behavior

A form of verbal behavior with the following features:

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES



The response is vocal



It is controlled by a prior auditory verbal stimulus



There is point-to-point correspondence between the stimulus and the response



There is formal similarity between the prior stimulus and the response-product

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES



Formal and dynamic characteristics of both the stimulus and the response

The "meaning" of either the stimulus or the response

-

-

Whether or not the current response is reinforced

Echoic Behavior Non-Example #1



Saying “echoic” as a result of seeing the word is **NOT** echoic; nor is saying it as a result of hearing someone say “imitative.”

i Note how the first example is missing the second defining feature of echoic behavior, while the second example is missing the third and fourth defining features of echoic behavior:

Echoic Behavior	
A form of verbal behavior with the following features:	
DEFINING FEATURES	IRRELEVANT FEATURES
• The response is vocal	

•	It is controlled by a prior auditory verbal stimulus
•	There is point-to-point correspondence between the stimulus and the response
•	There is formal similarity between the prior stimulus and the response-product

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

•	Formal and dynamic characteristics of both the stimulus and the response
•	The "meaning" of either the stimulus or the response
•	Whether or not the current response is reinforced

Echoic Behavior Example #2



00:14

It is possible for there to be a great deal of formal similarity in the case of echoic behavior, and this is clearly the case with the skilled mimic, who not only says the “same thing,” but uses the same intonation and pitch as the original speaker.



Echoic Behavior

A form of verbal behavior with the following features:

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

✓	The response is vocal
✓	It is controlled by a prior auditory verbal stimulus
✓	There is point-to-point correspondence between the stimulus and the response
✓	There is formal similarity between the prior stimulus and the response-product

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

•	Formal and dynamic characteristics of both the stimulus and the response
•	The "meaning" of either the stimulus or the response
•	Whether or not the current response is reinforced

Knowledge Check

You will be presented with a series of examples. Indicate whether each example illustrates echoic behavior or non-echoic behavior.

Question

01/11

Saying “ice cream” as a result of hearing someone say “ice cream.”

- ☐ echoic
- ☐ non-echoic

Question

02/11

Saying “fox” as a result of seeing a fox.

- ☐ echoic
- ☐ non-echoic

Question

03/11

When someone tells you their name and you repeat it so that you will remember it.

- ☐ echoic
- ☐ non-echoic

Question

04/11

Your instructor writes the next assignment on the whiteboard and then you write it in your notebook.

☐

echoic

☐

non-echoic

Question

05/11

Saying “stop” as a result of seeing a stop sign.

- ☐ echoic
- ☐ non-echoic

Question

06/11

You see someone yawn and as a result find yourself yawning.

- ☐ echoic
- ☐ non-echoic

Question

07/11

You write the word “ice cream” as a result of hearing someone say it.

- ☐ echoic
- ☐ non-echoic

Question

08/11

You say “ice cream” as a result of seeing the word “ice cream.”

- ☐ echoic
- ☐ non-echoic

Question

09/11

You say “ice cream” as the result of wanting some.

- ☐ echoic
- ☐ non-echoic

Question

10/11

You say “ice cream” as the result of hearing someone say “popsicle.”

- ☐ echoic
- ☐ non-echoic

Question

11/11

You say “ZEB” as the result of hearing someone say “ZEB.”

- ☐ echoic
- ☐ non-echoic

Review



Echoic behavior is verbal behavior in which the response is vocal and controlled by a prior auditory verbal stimulus, there is point-to-point correspondence between the stimulus and the response, and there is formal similarity between the prior stimulus and the response-product.



Features **irrelevant** to the classification of echoic behavior include the formal and dynamic characteristics of the stimulus and the response, the “meaning” of either the stimulus or the response, and whether or not the current response is reinforced.

End of Lesson