

HANDOUT 8-5

Reinforcement Schedules

The text indicates that in real life, continuous reinforcement is rare. Sometimes responses are reinforced, sometimes not. Among the most important schedules of partial reinforcement are the fixed ratio (FR), variable ratio (VR), fixed interval (FI), and variable interval (VI). Identify the schedule in the examples below by writing your answer—FR, VR, FI, or VI—in the spaces on the left.

- _____ 1. buying state lottery tickets and winning
- _____ 2. A hotel maid may take a 15-minute break only after having cleaned three rooms.
- _____ 3. watching and seeing shooting stars on a dark night
- _____ 4. A teenager receives an allowance every Saturday.
- _____ 5. checking the front porch for a newspaper when the delivery person is extremely unpredictable
- _____ 6. A professional baseball player gets a hit approximately every third time at bat.
- _____ 7. checking the oven to see if chocolate chip cookies are done, when baking time is known
- _____ 8. A blueberry picker receives \$1 after filling 3 pint boxes.
- _____ 9. A charitable organization makes an average of ten phone calls for every donation it receives.
- _____ 10. calling a garage mechanic to see if your car is fixed yet
- _____ 11. A student's final grade improves one level for every three book reviews submitted.
- _____ 12. going to the cafeteria to see if the next meal is available