

## Glossary Of Terms M-Z For Introduction to Psychology

### -M-

**magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)** - Imaging technique that involves the use of radio waves and a strong magnetic field to produce a signal that can be interpreted by a computer

**maintenance rehearsal** - Rehearsal used when we want to save or maintain a memory for a specified period of time

**mania** - Excessive activity, accelerated speech, poor judgment, and euphoria; symptoms of bipolar disorder

**manifest content** - According to Freud, the dream as reported by the dreamer

**marijuana** - Substance derived from the Cannabis sativa plant

**maturation** - Biological unfolding of the genetic plan for an individual's development

**medical model** - The view that mental disorders are like physical illnesses and have underlying organic causes

**medulla** - Structure located in the hindbrain that regulates automatic responses such as breathing, swallowing, and blood circulation

**meiosis** - Type of cell division that results in a reduction of the amount of genetic material in each of the resulting cells

**memory** - System or process by which the products or results of learning are stored for future use

**menarche** - Beginning of menstruation

**menopause** - Cessation of ovulation and menstruation; these changes mark the end of the childbearing years

**mental age** - Measure of intelligence derived by comparing an individual's score on an intelligence test with the average performance of individuals of the same age

**method of loci** - Use of familiar locations as cues to recall items that have been associated with them

**microvilli** - Hairs that project from taste receptors

**midbrain** - Major division of the brain that contains fibers known as the reticular formation

**middle adulthood** - Period from approximately age 40 to age 65

**midlife crisis** - Potentially stressful period that occurs during the mid-forties and is triggered by reevaluation of one's accomplishments

**mitosis** - Process of cell division in which each cell contains the same genetic information as other cells

**mnemonic devices** - Procedures for associating new information with previously stored memories

**model** - Framework that is helpful in understanding a particular phenomenon

**monochromat** - Individual who sees only shades of gray due to a rare form of colorblindness

**monocular cues** - Cues for depth perception that involve the use of only one eye

**mood disorders** - Extremes of emotional levels such as unipolar depression and bipolar disorder

**moratorium** - Period during which an adolescent may try several identities without intending to settle on a specific one

**Moro reflex** - Startle reflex in response to a loud noise or the sensation of being dropped

**Morpheme** - The smallest unit of language that has meaning

**multiple sclerosis** - Disease caused by degeneration of myelin in the central nervous system

**myelin sheath** - Fatty protein substance that covers some axons, increasing speed of transmission

-N-

**narcolepsy** - Sleep disorder characterized by excessive daytime sleepiness and cataplectic attacks induced by emotion; the symptoms are due to the intrusion of REM sleep into waking time

**natural selection** - The principle that the strongest or most fit organisms are the ones that adapt best to their environment

**naturalistic observation** - Study of behavior in its typical setting, with no attempt to alter it

**nature** - Theory that holds that physical and cognitive development is genetically determined

**negative identity** - Adoption of behaviors that are the opposite of what is expected

**negative reinforcer** - Event that is removed after the target response, thereby increasing the likelihood that this response will occur again

**negative transfer** - Condition in which previous learning interferes with subsequent learning

**neuromodulators** - Chemicals that may have a widespread or general effect on the release of neurotransmitters

**neurons** - Basic cells of the nervous system

**neuropsychologist** - Psychologists trained in the diagnosis and rehabilitation of brain disorders

**neurotransmitters** - Chemical substances, stored in the terminal buttons, that facilitate the transmission of information from one neuron to another

**neutral stimulus (NS)** - Stimulus that, before conditioning, does not elicit a particular response

**nightmare** - Frightening dream that occurs during REM sleep

**nodes of Ranvier** - Gaps in the myelin sheath

**non-REM (NREM) sleep** - Stages of sleep other than REM sleep (Stages 1, 2, 3, and 4); NREM sleep consists primarily of Stages 3 and 4 early in the night and Stage 2 later on

**nonsense syllables** - Stimuli used to study memory, typically composed of a consonant-vowel-consonant sequence

**nonverbal communication** - Communication that involves movements, gestures, and facial expressions

**normal curve** - Symmetrical, bell-shaped distribution of scores or attributes in which the majority of scores are clustered around the mean

**norms** - Distribution of scores obtained by a large sample of people who have taken a particular psychological test

**nurture** - Theory that holds that physical and cognitive development is determined by environmental factors

-O-

**obedience** - Initiating or changing a behavior in response to a direct command

**obesity** - Body weight of 20 percent or more in excess of ideal body weight

**object permanence** - Recognition that objects continue to exist even though they cannot be directly sensed

**observational learning (social learning theory)** - Learning that occurs through watching and imitating the behaviors of others

**obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD)** - An anxiety disorder characterized by repetitive, irrational, intrusive thoughts, impulses, or images (obsessions) and irresistible impulses (compulsions) to engage repeatedly in some act such as checking that doors are locked or washing hands

**Oedipal complex** - Process that occurs during the phallic stage in which a boy wishes to possess his mother sexually and fears retaliation by his father

**olaction** - The sense of smell

**operant conditioning** - Learning that occurs when the participant must make a response to produce a change in the environment

**operational definition** - A careful and precise definition that allows other researchers to repeat an experiment

**opioid peptides** - Painkillers that are produced by the body

**opioids** - Drugs that reduce pain

**optic chiasm** - Point at which the optic nerve fibers from each eye join; fibers from the nasal half of the retina cross to the opposite hemisphere of the brain

**oral stage** - first stage of psychosexual development in which the mouth is the focus of pleasure-seeking activity

**organ of Corti** - Structure located on the basilar membrane of the inner ear that contains the auditory receptors

**osmotic thirst** - Thirst created by a depletion of intracellular fluids

**ossicles** - Three bones (hammer, anvil, and stirrup) located in the middle ear that conduct sound from the outer to the inner ear

**osteoporosis** - Condition in which the bones become thinner and more prone to fractures and breaks; typically appears in women following menopause

**oval window** - Structure that connects the middle ear with the cochlea of the inner ear; its movement causes fluid in the cochlea to move

## -P-

**paired-associate learning** - Learning procedure in which items to be recalled are learned in pairs. During recall, one member of the pair is presented and the other is to be recalled

**panic disorder** - The most severe anxiety disorder, characterized by intense physiological arousal not related to a specific stimulus

**papillae** - Bumps or protrusions distributed on the tongue and throat that are lined with taste buds

**paralanguage** - Communication that involves aspects of speech such as rate of talking and tone of voice but not the words used

**paraphilia** - Sexual arousal by objects or situations not considered sexual by most people

**parasomnias** - Sleep disorders other than insomnia and hypersomnia, which occur more frequently in children and often disappear without treatment

**parasympathetic division** - Subdivision of the autonomic nervous system that is responsible for returning the body to a resting or balanced state

**partial reinforcement effect** - Phenomenon in which extinction of an operant response following partial or intermittent reinforcement takes longer than extinction following continuous reinforcement

**passionate love** - Transitory form of love that involves strong emotional reactions, sexual desires, and fantasies

**pattern perception** - The ability to discriminate among different figures and shapes

**peer group** - Group of neighborhood children, classmates, or selected friends of the same age

**pegword technique** - Use of familiar words or names as cues to recall items that have been associated with them

**perception** - The process of organizing and making sense of sensory information

**perceptual constancy** - The tendency to perceive the size and shape of an object as constant even though its retinal image changes

**perceptual hypothesis** - Inference about the nature of stimuli received from the environment

**perceptual illusions** - Misperceptions or interpretations of stimuli that do not correspond to the sensations received

**peripheral nervous system (PNS)** - Division of the nervous system that consists of neural fibers lying outside the brain and spinal cord

**personal fable** - Feeling shared by many adolescents that one is not subject to the same rules as other people

**personality** - A relatively stable pattern of behaving, feeling, and thinking that distinguishes one person from another

**personality disorders** - Disorders characterized by long-standing, difficult-to-treat, dysfunctional behaviors that are first observed in adolescence

**persuasion** - The use of social influence to cause people to change attitudes or behavior

**phallic stage** - The third stage of psychosexual development, in which the genital organs become the focus of pleasure-seeking behavior

**phencyclidine piperidine (PCP)** - Powerful hallucinogen that can have unpredictable effects

**pheromones** - Chemicals that produce odors that elicit a particular response in members of the same species

**phobia** - Irrational fear of an activity, object, or situation that is out of proportion to the actual danger

**phoneme** - The smallest unit of sound understood as part of a language

**physiological perspective** - View that behaviors and mental processes can be understood and explained by studying the underlying physiology

**pituitary gland** - Gland located below the thalamus; called the master gland because its secretions control many other glands

**place theory** - Theory stating that the basilar membrane vibrates at different places to create the perception of different pitches

**placebo effect** - In drug research, positive effects associated with a subject's beliefs and attitudes about the drug, even when it contains no active ingredients

**placenta** - Organ that develops in the uterus during pregnancy; it produces hormones that maintain pregnancy, transmits nourishment to the fetus, and filters out certain harmful substances

**polygenic inheritance** - Principle of heredity whereby complex traits, such as intelligence and personality, are determined by many genes

**polygraph** - An electronic device (often called a lie detector) that senses and records changes in several physiological indices including blood pressure, heart rate, respiration, and galvanic skin response

**pons** - Structure of the hindbrain that connects the two halves of the brain; has nuclei that are important for sleep and arousal

**positive reinforcer** - Event that is presented after the target response that increases the likelihood that this response will occur again

**positive transfer** - Condition in which previous learning aids subsequent learning

**positron emission tomography (PET)** - Imaging technique that involves monitoring the metabolic activity of the brain

**posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD)** - Set of symptoms that may follow deeply disturbing events; symptoms include reliving the event, difficulty in concentrating, sleep disturbances, nervousness, and guilt

**precocious** - Developing motor and cognitive abilities at an early age

**preconventional level** - Kohlberg's first stage of moral development (ages 4 to 10), in which standards set by others are observed in order to receive reinforcement or avoid punishment

**prejudice** - Judging a person on the basis of stereotypes about the group to which the person belongs

**preoperational stage** - Piaget's second stage of cognitive development, in which the child begins to think about objects that are not physically present

**presbycusis** - Hearing disorder involving higher frequencies that occurs in middle adulthood

**presbyopia** - Farsightedness that normally develops during middle adulthood; stiffening of the lens results in difficulty in focusing on near objects

**prevalence** - Number or percentage of individuals in a population that ever had a particular disorder during a specified period

**primary appraisal** - The first step in coping with stress; consists of determining whether an event is a threat

**primary reinforcer** - Stimulus that has innate reinforcing properties

**primary sex characteristics** - Characteristics directly related to reproduction

**implicit memory** - Unconscious memory processing in which prior exposure to stimulus items may aid in subsequent learning

**proactive interference** - Situation in which previously learned information hinders the recall of information learned more recently

**procedural memory** - Memory for making responses and performing skilled actions

**progressive relaxation** - Series of exercises consisting of alternately tightening and relaxing major muscle groups

**projective test** - Psychological test that involves the use of ambiguous stimuli in an effort to assess personality

**prosocial behavior** - Behavior that benefits society or helps others

**proximity** - Gestalt principle stating that perceptual elements that are close together are seen as a group

**pseudohermaphrodite** - An individual who possesses two gonads of the same kind along with the usual male or female chromosomal makeup, but has external genitalia and secondary sex characteristics that do not match his or her chromosomal makeup.

**psychiatrist** - Physician with specialized training in the medical treatment of mental and emotional disorders

**psychic determinism** - The psychodynamic assumption that all behaviors result from early childhood experiences, especially conflicts related to sexual instincts

**psychoactive substances** - Drugs that affect consciousness, perception, mood, and behavior

**psychoanalytic therapy** - Treatment of maladaptive behavior developed by Sigmund Freud; its goal is to uncover unconscious conflicts and feelings and bring them to the conscious level

**psychodynamic model** - The view that psychological disorders result from unconscious conflicts related to sex or aggression

**psychodynamic perspective** - View taken by Sigmund Freud and his followers which suggests that normal and abnormal behaviors are determined by unconscious forces

**psychological therapies** - Treatments for psychological disorders such as psychotherapy or therapies based on classical or operant conditioning principles

**psychologist** - Individual who has earned a doctoral degree and is interested in the behavior of humans and animals

**psychology** - Science of behavior and mental processes

**psychophysiological disorders** - Disorders involving physical symptoms that have been caused or worsened by psychological factors

**psychosis** - Any disorder in which a severely disturbed individual loses contact with reality

**psychosocial crisis** - Developmental problem or obstacle that is created when a psychological need conflicts with the demands of society

**psychosurgery** - The alteration of brain tissue in an attempt to alleviate psychological disorders

**psychotherapy** - A special relationship between a distressed person and a trained therapist in which the therapist aids the client in developing awareness and changing his or her thinking, feeling, and behavior

**puberty** - The time at which an individual achieves full sexual maturity

**pubescence** - Period of rapid growth, maturation of sexual organs, and appearance of secondary sex characteristics that precedes puberty

**punisher** - Stimulus that produces a decrease in responding; may take the form of presentation of a stimulus (positive punisher) or termination of a stimulus (negative punisher)

**punishment** - The process of using a punisher to decrease response rate

-R-

**radiant light** - Visible energy emitted by an object

**random assignment** - Assignment of experimental subjects to two or more groups on the basis of chance

**rapid eye movement (REM) sleep** - Sleep stage characterized by rapid eye movements, dreams, high brain activity, and muscle paralysis

**ratio schedule** - Reinforcement schedule in which reinforcement is based on the number of responses; number may be set (fixed-ratio, or FR, schedule) or may vary from one reinforcement to the next (variable-ratio, or VR, schedule)

**rational-emotive therapy (RET)** - A cognitive therapy in which the therapist challenges and questions the client's irrational ideas

**reactance** - The tendency to react in the opposite direction to a persuasive message when compliance might place limits on personal freedom

**receptors** - Specialized cells that are sensitive to specific types of stimulus energy

**reciprocal determinism** - Contention that person variables, situation variables, and behavior constantly interact

**reciprocity** - Tactic for increasing compliance that involves doing something for others to create a feeling of obligation on their part

**recognition test** - Test in which learning is measured by the ability to pick out previously learned items from a list that also contains unfamiliar items

**reflected light** - Light waves that are reflected from objects

**reflex** - Automatic behavior in response to a specific stimulus

**refractory period** - Brief period following an action potential when the neuron is returning to the resting state and cannot be fired

**reinforcer** - Event that increases the frequency of the response that it follows

**reintegration** - Schaie's fourth stage of cognition and thought, in which individuals in late adulthood come to grips with the meaning of their lives

**relaxation response** - Relaxation technique that involves the use of a mental device

**relearning test** - Test of learning that compares the time or trials required to learn material a second time to the time or trials required to learn the material the first time

**reliability** - Degree to which repeated administrations of a psychological test yield consistent scores

**representative sample** - Sample selected so that it reflects the characteristics of a population of interest to the researcher

**representativeness heuristic** - Heuristic in which one determines whether a particular instance represents a certain class or category.

**repression** - Defense mechanism in which anxiety-arousing ideas are pushed out of consciousness to the unconscious level of the mind

**research psychologist** - Psychologist whose primary activity is to conduct and report the results of experiments

**resistance** - A stage of psychoanalysis in which blocking of free association occurs because critical unconscious material is close to conscious awareness

**resting state** - Electrical charge (-70 mV) of a neuron when it is not firing

**reticular formation** - Nerve fibers passing through the midbrain that control arousal

**retina** - Tissue that contains the visual receptors, located at the back of the eye

**retrieval** - Third stage of the memory process, in which stored memories are brought into consciousness

**retroactive interference** - Situation in which information learned more recently hinders the recall of information learned previously

**retrograde amnesia** - Loss of memories that were stored before a traumatic event

**reuptake** - Method of clearing a neurotransmitter from the synaptic cleft, in which the neurotransmitter is taken back into the terminal buttons

**rigidity** - BTendency to rely too heavily on past experiences in solving problems

**risky-shift phenomenon** - The finding that groups make riskier decisions than individuals

**rods** - Most prevalent visual receptors; have lower threshold and lower acuity than cones and do not detect color

**rooting reflex** - Reflex in which the infant turns its head in the direction of a touch on its face

## **-S-**

**saturation** - Trueness or accuracy of a color

**savant syndrome** - Case of a mentally retarded person who displays exceptional ability in a specific area

**savings score** - Difference between the time or trials originally required to learn material and the time or trials required to relearn the material

**scatterplot** - Figure that illustrates a relationship between two variables

**schedule of reinforcement** - Preset pattern for delivering reinforcement

**schema** - Grouping or cluster of knowledge about an object or sequence of events

**schizophrenia** - Psychotic disorder characterized by positive symptoms (excesses) such as delusions, hallucinations, and fluent but disordered speech and/or negative symptoms (deficits) such as flat or blunted affect

**school psychology** - Specialty of psychology that involves diagnosing and treating learning disabilities and providing consultation on other problems of school-age children

**scientific method** - System of investigation in which a person makes careful observations of a phenomenon, proposes theories to explain the phenomenon, makes hypotheses about future behaviors, and then tests these hypotheses through more research and observation

**secondary appraisal** - The second step in coping with stress; consists of deciding how to deal with the stress-producing situation

**secondary reinforcer** - Stimulus that acquires reinforcing properties by being associated with a primary reinforcer

**secondary sex characteristics** - Sex-related characteristics that develop during adolescence and are not directly related to reproduction

**secular trend** - Tendency of members of one generation to begin puberty at an earlier age than their parents

**self-actualization** - Need to develop one's full potential

**self-disclosure** - Personal information that an individual is willing to share

**self-efficacy** - An individual's expectancy concerning his or her ability to engage in effective behaviors; such expectancies differ from one behavior to another

**self-fulfilling prophecy** - Phenomenon whereby our expectations elicit behaviors in others that confirm our expectations

**self-report inventory** - Psychological tests in which individuals answer questions about themselves, usually by responding yes or no or true or false

**self-serving bias** - The tendency to make internal attributions when we are successful and external attributions when we fail

**semantic memory** - Memory for general knowledge

**semantic network** - Network of related concepts that are linked together

**semicircular canals** - Fluid-filled passages in the inner ear that detect movement of the head

**sensation** - Activation of receptors by stimuli in the environment

**sensitization** - Condition in which stimulation applied to one part of the body causes another part of the body to become more sensitive

**sensorimotor stage** - Piaget's first stage of cognitive development, in which children learn about their environment through direct sensory contact and motor activities

**sensorineural deafness** - Deafness caused by damage to the inner ear, especially the hair cells

**sensory memory** - Very brief but extensive memory for sensory events

**serial enumeration** - Ability to remember a series of events

**serial learning** - Learning procedure in which material that has been learned must be repeated in the order in which it was presented

**serial position effect** - Tendency for items at the beginning and end of a list to be learned better than items in the middle of the list

**set effect** - Bias toward the use of certain problem-solving approaches because of past experience

**sex** - Category based on biological differences in anatomy, hormones, and genetic composition

**sexism** - Differential treatment of an individual on the basis of his or her sex

**sexual harassment** - Under the law, either sexual coercion based on promised rewards or threatened punishments or creation of a hostile workplace environment

**sexual orientation** - Tendency for an individual to be attracted to individuals of the same sex, opposite sex, or both

**shape constancy** - The tendency to perceive the shape of an object as constant despite changes in its retinal image

**shaping** - A form of operant conditioning in which a desired response is taught by reinforcement of successive responses that more closely resemble the target response

**short-term memory (STM)** - Memory stage in which information is held in consciousness for 10 to 20 seconds

**signal detection theory** - The contention that the threshold varies with the nature of the stimulus (signal) and background stimulation (noise)

**similarity** - Gestalt principle stating that perceptual elements that are similar are seen as a group

**simultaneous conditioning** - Form of classical conditioning in which the CS and US are presented at exactly the same time

**size constancy** - The tendency to perceive the size of an object as constant despite changes in its retinal image

**sleep apnea** - Sleep disorder characterized by pauses in breathing during sleep; most prevalent in overweight males

**sleep cycle** - Progression of sleep stages, from Stage 1 to the end of a REM period, that repeats itself about every 90 minutes

**sleep terror** - Partial awakening from Stage 4 sleep characterized by loud screams and extreme physiological arousal

**sleepwalking** - A parasomnia that occurs during Stage 4 sleep

**social facilitation** - An increase in performance that occurs when other people are present

**social loafing** - The tendency to exert less effort when working on a group task that does not involve evaluation of individual participants

**social norms** - Guidelines, usually unwritten, that define behavior that is acceptable or unacceptable within a particular group

**social phobia** - A fear related to being seen or observed by others

**social psychology** - Study of the causes, types, and consequences of human interaction

**social support** - Availability of comfort, recognition, approval, advice, money, or encouragement from others

**sociobiology** - The study of the genetic and evolutionary basis of social behavior

**sociocultural model** - A view that emphasizes the importance of society and culture in causing psychological disorders

**soma** - Cell body of a neuron

**somatic division** - Division of the peripheral nervous system that consists of nerves coming from the receptors to the brain and spinal cord and nerves that go to the muscles

**somatization disorder** - Somatoform disorder involving multiple physical complaints that do not have a medical explanation and do not suggest a specific known disease

**somatoform disorders** - Disorders involving physical complaints that do not have a medical cause but are related to psychological factors

**somatosensory receptors** - Receptors in the skin that provide sensory information

**sonogram** - Outline picture constructed through use of the ultrasound procedure

**specific phobia** - Any phobia other than agoraphobia or the social phobias, including the fear of specific animals, of elements of the natural environment, and of such things as blood, injections, or injury

**spontaneous recovery** - Reappearance of an extinguished CR after the passage of time

**sport psychology** - Specialty of psychology that provides services to athletes and coaches based on psychological principles

**standardization** - The development of procedures for administering psychological tests and the collection of norms that provide a frame of reference for interpreting test scores

**state-dependent learning** - Theory stating that when we learn something while in a specific physiological state, our recall of that information will be better when we are in the same physiological state

**stereotaxic instrument** - Instrument that holds a subject's head in a fixed position to allow precise surgery on subcortical structures

**stereotype** - Set of beliefs about members of a particular group

**stimulants** - Drugs that increase the activity of the central nervous system

**stimulus** - Environmental feature that provokes a response

**storage** - Second stage of the memory process, in which information is placed in the memory system. This stage may involve either brief or long-term storage of memories

**stress** - Nonspecific response of the body to any demand made on it

**stress inoculation training** - A cognitive therapy that helps clients learn ways to interpret stressful events and develop self-talk that reduces stress levels

**stressor** - Anything that causes an organism to adjust and display the nonspecific stress response

**structuralism** - Earliest approach in modern psychology, founded by Wundt; its goal was to analyze the basic elements of conscious experience

**subcortical structures** - Structures of the forebrain, such as the amygdala, hypothalamus, and thalamus, that are located beneath the cerebral cortex

**subliminal** - Below the level of conscious awareness

**substance abuse** - Pattern of substance use that has detrimental effects on an individual's health and safety and on social and occupational roles

**substance dependence** - More serious pattern of substance use than found in substance abuse; often characterized by drug tolerance

**substance** - Neurotransmitter involved in sensing pain

**successive approximations** - Successively reinforcing responses as they more closely resemble the target response

**sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)** - Unexpected death of an apparently healthy infant up to age 1 that is not explained by autopsy, medical case information, or an investigation of death scene

**superego** - In psychodynamic theory, the element of the mind that incorporates parental and societal standards in what is commonly referred to as the conscience as well as the idealistic ego ideal

**survey method** - Research method that involves collecting information from a selected group of people who are representative of a larger group

**symbolic representation** - Using a mental thought or activity as a substitute for an actual object

**sympathetic division** - Subdivision of the autonomic nervous system that is responsible for mobilizing the body in times of stress, preparing for fight or flight

**synapse** - Site where two or more neurons interact but do not touch

**synaptic vesicles** - Small pockets or sacs located in the terminal buttons that contain a neurotransmitter

**syntax** - The organization of words into phrases and sentences

**systematic desensitization** - A behavioral technique, based on classical conditioning, that is used to treat phobias

**-T-**

**tardive dyskinesia** - A serious adverse effect of antipsychotic drugs characterized by involuntary motor symptoms such as lip smacking

**taste buds** - Structures that contain the taste receptors

**taste-aversion learning** - Development of a dislike or aversion to a flavor or food that has been paired with illness

**tectorial membrane** - Membrane located above the organ of Corti in the inner ear

**teratogen** - Any biological, chemical, or physical agent capable of causing birth defects

**terminal buttons** - Structures located at the ends of the axon in which neurotransmitters are stored before release

**thalamus** - Subcortical structure that relays incoming sensory information to other parts of the brain

**theory** - Explanation for a phenomenon based on careful and precise observations

**thinking** - Manipulation of information in the form of mental images or concepts

**tip-of-the-tongue (TOT) phenomenon** - Condition of being almost, but not quite, able to remember something; used to investigate the nature of semantic memory

**token economy** - A technique that reinforces desirable behaviors with tokens (secondary reinforcers), which can be redeemed for other reinforcers, especially primary reinforcers

**tolerance** - Need for increasing dosages of a drug to achieve the same effect as earlier dosages

**trace conditioning** - Form of classical conditioning in which the CS comes on and goes off before the US is presented

**trait** - A summary term that describes the tendency to behave, feel, and think in ways that are consistent across different situations

**transduction** - Conversion of stimuli received by the receptors into a form (patterns of neural impulses) that can be used by the nervous system

**transfer test** - An evaluation of the effect of learning one task on the learning of subsequent tasks

**transference** - In psychoanalysis, the patient's positive or negative reaction to the therapist, which is believed to reflect the patient's relationship to a significant person outside of therapy

**trichromatic theory** - Theory of color vision stating that there are three types of color receptors

**Type A behavior** - Collection of behavioral and personality characteristics that include competitiveness, aggressiveness, achievement drive, and inability to relax

**-UVW-**

**ultrasound procedure** - Projection of sound waves onto the fetus, uterus, and placenta to construct a sonogram

**unconditioned response (UR)** - Reaction that is automatically produced when an unconditioned stimulus is presented

**unconditioned stimulus (US)** - Event that automatically produces an unconditioned response without any previous training

**unconscious** - Part of the personality that lies outside of awareness yet is believed to be a crucial determinant of behavior

**utricle** - Fluid-filled chamber in the inner ear that detects changes in gravity

**validity** - Degree to which a psychological test measures what it purports to measure

**vergence eye movements** - Movements of the eyes in opposite directions

**vestibular sense** - System located in the inner ear that allows us to make adjustments to bodily movements and postures

**vicarious punishment** - Ability to imagine the effects of a punisher

**vicarious reinforcement** - Ability to imagine the effects of a reinforcer

**volemic thirst** - Thirst created by a depletion of extracellular fluids

**wavelength** - Physical length of a light wave measured in nanometers

**Weber's law** - The observation that the amount of stimulus increase or decrease required to discern a change, divided by the original stimulation, is a constant

**withdrawal** - Changes in behavior, cognition, and physiology that occur when stopping or reducing the heavy and prolonged use of a substance

**working memory** - Second stage of short-term memory, where attention and conscious effort are brought to bear on material

**-XYZ-**

**zygote** - One-celled organism formed by the union of a sperm and an ovum