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reinforcement schedules

**Number**

**fixed ratio** 10 drinks, 1 food pellet 30 responses, one free, one sewn purse $40.00

High rate of responding which pauses briefly after being reinforced.

**variable ratio** slot machine, fly-fishing, commissioned sales, cold calls

Produce high rates of responding because reinforcers increase as the number of responses increase.

**Time**

**fixed interval** Thurs & Friday sale items, monthly paycheck,

respond more frequently as time for reward is near- produces a choppy start/stop pattern rather than steady rate of response

**variable interval** watching a game to not miss the scoring, Checking Facebook

Slow steady responding - You don't know when the waiting is over.

In general - **highest** response rate when linked to ratio schedule or # of responses rather than time.

More **consistent** when reinforcement is unpredictable on a variable schedule that predictable time on a fixed schedule.

Least to most

Fixed interval

variable interval

fixed ratio

variable ratio