

# Lesson 34: Multiple Responses (OA)



This lesson defines and provides examples of multiple responses, which is when a single controlling variable strengthens two or more different responses.

☰ Review of Multiple Controlling Variables

☰ Definition of Multiple Responses

☰ Multiple Responses Example #1

☰ Multiple Responses Example #2

📄 Knowledge Check

☰ Review

# Review of Multiple Controlling Variables

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Because the concept of multiple responses is so closely related to multiple controlling variables, the practice questions for both concepts are combined and presented at the end of this lesson.

## Multiple Controlling Variables

A situation with the following features:

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • | There is a single response form  |
| • | The response is simultaneously strengthened by two or more controlling variables |

**DEFINING FEATURES****IRRELEVANT FEATURES**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| ● | Response topography   |
| ● | The type of controlling variable (stimulus or establishing operation) |
| ● | The specific number of multiple variables                             |
| ● | Whether or not the current response is followed by reinforcement      |

# Definition of Multiple Responses

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00:35

**Multiple responses** is a situation in which there is a single controlling variable and that controlling variable simultaneously strengthens two or more different response forms. Features irrelevant to multiple responses include the specific type of controlling variable, the number of response forms which are strengthened, and the type of elementary verbal relationship. All specific features of either the stimulus or the response are irrelevant in determining whether or not verbal behavior is multiply controlled. Furthermore, the different response forms may be emitted at different times or at about the same time. Any complex stimulus situation may affect more than one response.

## Multiple Responses

A situation with the following features:

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES



There is a single controlling variable

That controlling variable simultaneously strengthens two or more different

- response forms

**DEFINING FEATURES**

**IRRELEVANT FEATURES**

- The specific type of controlling variable
- The number of response forms which are strengthened
- The type of elementary verbal relationship

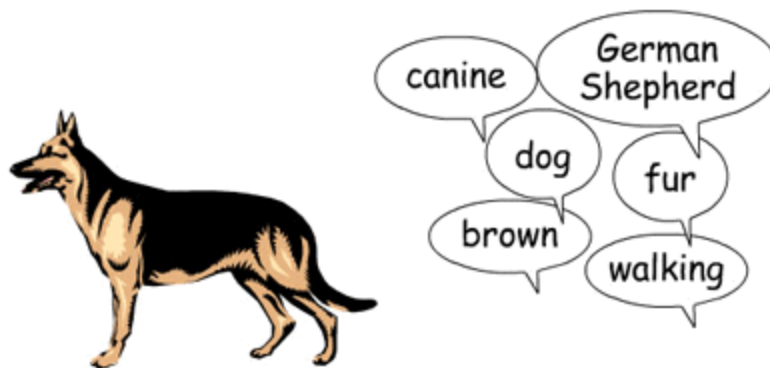
# Multiple Responses Example #1

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00:25

A dog walking by may simultaneously increase the likelihood of saying “dog” and of saying “canine.” You may say both words on the same occasion or days apart. It may also increase the likelihood of the response “fur,” “German Shepherd” (if that is what it is), “brown,” “walking,” and others. Of course, it is typically the case that only one of these responses will actually be emitted, probably because several other controlling variables are also affecting it as we have just seen.



## Multiple Responses

A situation with the following features:

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

|   |   |
|---|---|
| ✓ | There is a single controlling variable  |
| ✓ | That controlling variable simultaneously strengthens two or more different response forms |

**DEFINING FEATURES**

**IRRELEVANT FEATURES**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| ● | The specific type of controlling variable           |
| ● | The number of response forms which are strengthened |
| ● | The type of elementary verbal relationship          |

# Multiple Responses Example #2

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00:15

This is an example of multiple responses in a tact relationship, but the same process also occurs in other elementary relationships. For example, the auditory stimulus “dog” may increase the likelihood of the echoic response “dog” or the intraverbal “cat” or the tact “common noun.”



## Multiple Responses

A situation with the following features:

DEFINING FEATURES

IRRELEVANT FEATURES

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|--|--|



|   |   |
|---|---|
| ✓ | There is a single controlling variable  |
| ✓ | That controlling variable simultaneously strengthens two or more different response forms |

**DEFINING FEATURES**

**IRRELEVANT FEATURES**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| ● | The specific type of controlling variable           |
| ● | The number of response forms which are strengthened |
| ● | The type of elementary verbal relationship          |

# Knowledge Check

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You will be presented with a series of examples. Indicate whether each example illustrates multiple controlling variables, multiple responses, both, or neither (i.e., singular control).

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Question

01/06

Saying “aardvark” as a result of hearing someone say, “What is that animal in the cage?” when an actual aardvark is in the cage.

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- Multiple controlling variables
- Multiple responses
- Both
- Neither (i.e., singular control)

Question

02/06

Saying “aardvark” as a result of seeing an aardvark and saying “armadillo” as a result of seeing an armadillo.

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- Multiple controlling variables
- Multiple responses
- Both
- Neither (i.e., singular control)

Question

03/06

Saying “There is a dog, a German Shepherd” as the result of seeing a German Shepherd.

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- Multiple controlling variables
- Multiple responses
- Both
- Neither (i.e., singular control)

Question

04/06

You see a new pick-up truck in your neighbor's driveway and say, "Nice truck."  
The next day you see the truck again, but say, "Nice pick-up."

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- Multiple controlling variables
- Multiple responses
- Both
- Neither (i.e., singular control)

Question

05/06

The response “double” in this advertisement for a photocopying pick-up and delivery service: “With one call, our copy expert will be there on the double.”

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- Multiple controlling variables
- Multiple responses
- Both
- Neither (i.e., singular control)

Question

06/06

Saying “bow” (rhymes with “go”) when you see an archer write “bow,” but later saying “bow” (rhymes with “cow”) when seeing an actor write “bow.”

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- Multiple controlling variables
- Multiple responses
- Both
- Neither (i.e., singular control)



# Review

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**Multiple responses** is a situation in which there is a single controlling variable and that controlling variable simultaneously strengthens two or more different response forms.



Features **irrelevant** to multiple responses include the specific type of controlling variable, the number of response forms which are strengthened, and the type of elementary verbal relationship.

*End of Lesson*