Classical Conditioning Worksheet

Directions: Three examples of classical conditioning are outlined in the following paragraphs. In each example, identify the unconditioned stimulus, unconditioned response, conditioned stimulus, and the unconditioned response.

The Shower When Tom gets back to the dormitory after jogging around the campus, he likes to take a quick shower before going to class. One morning, while taking a shower, he hears someone flushing a nearby toilet. Suddenly, extremely hot water comes rushing out of the showerhead and Tom experiences excruciating pain. After muttering a few obscenities, he continues showering. A few minutes later, Tom hears another toilet flush and he leaps out of the shower.

What is the unconditioned stimulus?
What is the unconditioned response?
What is the neutral stimulus that becomes the conditioned stimulus?
What is the conditioned response?

Stop the Carousel I Want to Get Off India was ecstatic when she learned her family was going to the state fair next weekend. When her family arrived at the state fair the temperature was in excess of 100°F, but India didn't care because she was finally there. India stopped and watched some clowns performing next to the carousel. As she watched the silly antics of the clowns with the carousel music playing in the background, India got more and more sweaty and uncomfortable. Eventually, she fainted from the heat. After that trip to the state fair, every time India hears carousel musical she feels a little dizzy.

What is the unconditioned stimulus?
What is the unconditioned response?
What is the neutral stimulus that becomes the conditioned stimulus?
What is the conditioned response?

When Good Tuna Goes Bad John was really looking forward to lunch because his mother had prepared a tuna salad sandwich. Unfortunately, the mayonnaise she used had been left out too long and was spoiled. Not long after eating the sandwich, John felt sick and had to rush to the bathroom. Thereafter, the mere mention of a tuna sandwich would make John nauseous.

What is the unconditioned stimulus?
What is the unconditioned response?
What is the neutral stimulus that becomes the conditioned stimulus?
What is the conditioned response?
For each of the following scenarios identify the CS, UCS, CR, and UCR. One of the best places to start is with the natural stimulus and response (UCS and UCR).

1. Taste Aversion
You go out to eat at your favorite Mexican restaurant and have a big Mexican meal. Within 6 hours of leaving you are violently ill and appear to have some type of food poisoning. You can not even imagine eating Mexican food again. Six months later, your stomach still turns when you think of going to eat at that restaurant.

UCS:
CS:
UCR:
CR:

2. Classic
Your favorite food is chocolate. You could eat it day and night. In fact, sometimes you refer to yourself as a chocoholic. Your roommate also eats quite a bit of chocolate, but she hides it away from you in a locked drawer (smart, don't you think?). However, she always shares her chocolate whenever she eats some; she just doesn't want you to eat it all one day when she is in biology lab. Whenever you hear her unlock the "special" drawer you know that you are going to get some chocolate. After about 2 weeks of living with your roommate, your mouth begins to water as soon as you hear her key go into the lock of the drawer.

UCS:
CS:
UCR:
CR:

3. Advertising
You like pretty girls; seeing them you generally feel happy and many times your heart works a bit harder. When soda commercials have pretty girls drinking the soda and dancing around the soda logo, you find that the soda is fairly appealing. When you see the soda in the store your heart starts pumping a little faster and you feeling light and happy. Consequently you buy this soda and pretty girls dance around you. No wait, that's only what the advertisers want you to believe. In reality you do buy the soda, but aren't quite sure why.

UCS:
CS:
UCR:
CR:
4. Phobias
One day when you were mowing the lawn, you had mow under a low hanging palm tree. When moving under the tree frond, you brushed up against a wasps' nest. Of course the wasps did not like this, and consequently neither did you. Stung and sore, you left the lawn for your sister to finish. Everytime that you walk by that tree now your muscles tense unconsciously. In fact, everytime you walk near a palm tree your muscles tense. However this only applies to palm trees, not other kinds of trees.

UCS:
CS:
UCR:
CR:

5. Fetishes
Your boyfriend, you know, the one you thought was "the One", has left you to go to Sweden. The two of you dated for 2 years and during that whole time he drove a yellow Gremlin. Now that you are a single woman on the prowl, you find that a man in a Gremlin, especially a yellow Gremlin, is your kind of man.

UCS:
CS:
UCR:
CR:

6. Motion Sickness
When you were young, your family used to take long car trips to see grandma. Being in the car that long made you carsick and feel quite nauseated. Eventually whenever mom announced that the family was going to visit grandma, you began to feel ill.

UCS:
CS:
UCR:
CR:

7. Storms
When thunderstorms occurs, the lightening comes before the thunder. Since thunder can often be quite loud and frightening, we often will jump when thunder booms. Eventually when we learned that lightening predicts the thunder, we become tense when we see the lightening.

UCS:
CS:
UCR:
CR:
Classical Conditioning Principles Worksheet

Classical conditioning is a form of associative learning, learning produced by pairing of stimuli and responses in time and place. It contributes to likes and dislikes, emotional reactions, and reflex-like responses to things. Below, explain the situation being described in terms of classical conditioning. For each description, identify or suggest the US, UR, CS, CR, as well as the principles likely to be at work.

1. While caring for a friend’s dog, you notice that it displays a fear-like posture as you roll up a newspaper. You try this several times more and become convinced that this dog is generally afraid of rolled up newspapers.

2. Joan, an animal trainer, has been phobic about monkeys since an earlier attack. However, because of the money, she has agreed to work with monkeys for a movie studio. At first, just going anywhere near cages makes Joan tense, sweaty, and apprehensive. Lately, though, things have changed. Working with such cuddly, affectionate, human-like creatures is causing Joan to wonder why she ever felt such extreme distress.

3. At a red light, Bob and Fred automatically tensed and felt chills when they heard the screech of tires behind them. Later, while watching a car race, Bob remarked how the screeching of tires was having little effect then. Fred agreed and wondered why they reacted at all, because neither had as much as a dent on his driving record.

4. Early in their relationship, the mere sight of Donna excited Jack. This gradually died out, however, as Donna behaved tolerantly but indifferently. When the relationship ended, Jack was bored with Donna and didn't even think about her for the next year. Now, he was surprised at how excited he was becoming as he saw Donna through the window of a bus.

5. Bill couldn't ever remember being so sick and nauseated. He would never go to that restaurant again, and he would never eat chicken again. All he could think about was the good dinner his mother would prepare for his homecoming. As he entered the kitchen, he became flushed and felt nauseated when he saw the golden brown turkey sitting on the table.