



## Learning Scenario - Behaviorism

George and Kevin are new golfers attending a golf lesson at the local public golf course on a sunny Saturday morning. The local PGA instructor arrives at the range and exclaims “Hey fellas, hope you’ve practiced hitting a draw over the past week!” He then gives George & Kevin a set of practice golf grips (S - A) and they both attempt to align their hands with the proper grip to hit a draw. (R - A)

“Ok fellas” says the instructor, showing George and Kevin the numbers indicating different grips options on the two golf grips (C - A) – open grip, closed grip, and neutral. “Now show me the correct grip for hitting a draw” (S - B)

George and Kevin each pick up a different grip from the range. Kevin grabs the grip showing an open hand placement while George chooses a grip indicating a closed clubface (R - B)

Their PGA instructor looks at both Kevin’s and Georges hands, then points to George. “Why do you think a closed grip will help you hit a draw?” The instructor asks.

“Well, if you’re in an open or neutral grip, it’s difficult to close the clubface” George responds, “If your swinging right to left, the clubface must be closed or you’ll hit a push!” “Love it fellas!” (while smiling and laughing) the PGA instructors says. (RF - A)

“Hey Kevin, what do fancy?” ask the PGA instructor. Kevin, looks at George and then quickly changes his grip. “Love it fellas!” (while smiling and laughing). The instructor then sets a hitting/swing plane tool on the ground showing a particular shot shape. “Can you identify this particular shot shape on the instruction board?” he asks. (S - C)

“Looks like a fade?” exclaims George (R - C). “Good guess, but not quite” responds the PGA instructor (SH - A). “Take another look, what shot shape is created when the club swings out to the right?” (S - D). George & Kevin look down at the golf instruction board again. “a draw!?” (R - D) Kevin responds.

“That’a boy Kevin!” (RF - B) Now, what do ya say we work on our follow-through?” (C - B)

**DOCUMENT KEY - S = Stimulus R = Response RF = Reinforcement SH = Shaping C = Chaining**

### Behaviorism Learning Scenario Clarification:

**Stimulus:** (S - A) The PGA Instructor prompts Kevin & George to place their hands in the proper position by providing the practice grips; (S - B) The PGA Instructor points to the grips and vocally asks George and Kevin to put their hands in the correct position to hit a draw. (S - C) The PGA Instructor gives Kevin & George with the instructional equipment to perform the behavior and asks them to explain the proper technique; (S - D) After George answers the question wrong, the instructor ask again with a new, slightly different questions.

**Response (R):** (R - A) George and Kevin are offered practice grips and they begin practicing different hand locations. (R - B) Upon picking up the practice grips from the range, George and Kevin begin put their hands in what they believe is the correct hand placement to hit a draw. (R - C) George give the PGA Instructor an oral reply when encouraged by the PGA Instructor with a question; (R - D) Upon getting an extra clue question, Kevin answers out loud with the correct answer..

**Shaping (SH):** (SH - A) The PGA Instructor responds the George’s answer is a “Good guess, but not quite” and prompts the pair again to help to promote the preferred response.

**Reinforcement (RF):** (RF - A) The PGA Instructor gives kudos (verbally and through body cues) when George and Kevin show the correct behavior (correct grip placement). (RF - B) The PGA Instructor asserts Kevin’s correct answer on the draw shot shape.

**Chaining (C):** (C - A) The PGA Instructor chains on the learning process of showing the correct swing path by supplying Kevin and George with the practice golf grips; (2) The PGA Instructor builds on the learning with additional steps by suggesting that Kevin and George will now work on their follow-through now that they now the proper swing path and golf grip.