

# COG Learning Theory

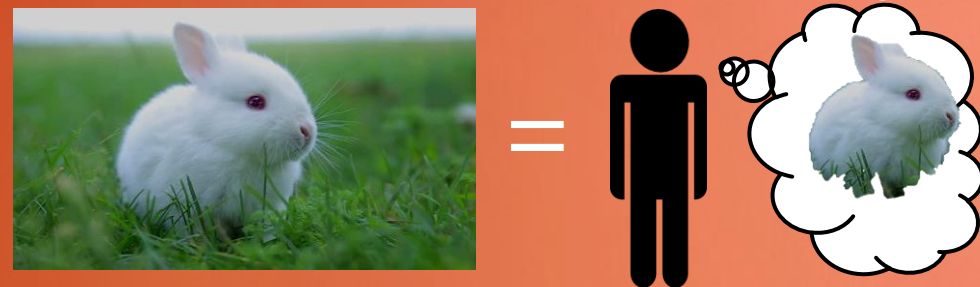
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**Definition of Learning:** A relatively permanent change in mental representations or associations due to experience.

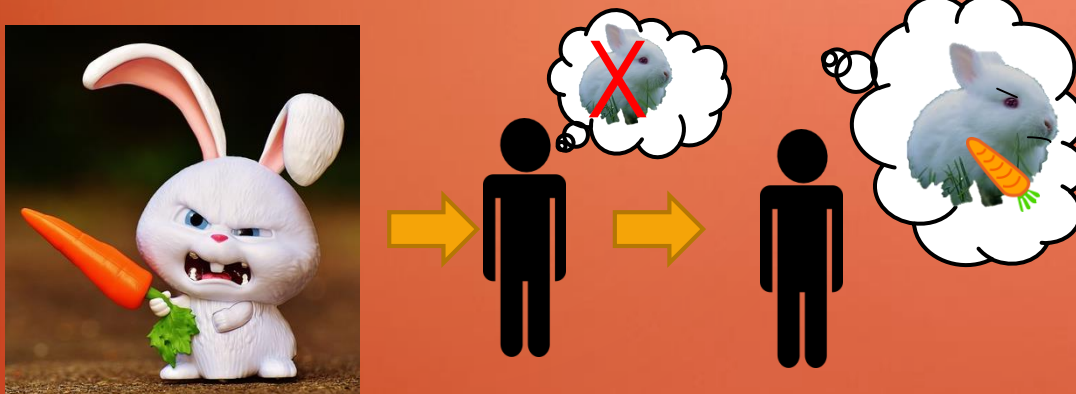
**Mechanism of Learning:** Building connections in the **schema** through the processes of **assimilation** and **accommodation**.

**Assumptions:** New information is related to previously-learned information; is not always behavioral though inferences are made from behavior; some learning processes are unique to humans.

Ex: Assimilation...the experience of petting the rabbit matches with what the learner knows about rabbits: they're soft and gentle.



Ex: Accommodation...the experience does not match what the speaker expected. The schema changes to account for this.



## Vocabulary and Key Principles

1. **Schema:** A mental unit that summarizes an event
2. **Assimilation:** Interaction with an object/event in a way that matches existing schema.
3. **Accommodation:** individual changes or forms new schema forms to account for a new event.
4. **Short Term/Working Memory:** Information processed < 1 minute.
5. **Long-Term Memory:** Information processed > 1 minute.

## Theorists & their key contributions:

**Jean Piaget:** Proposed 4 cognitive stages of child development

**Lev Vygotsky:** Coined the socio-cultural theory that children learn through interactions with adults and culture

**Alan Baddeley:** Proposed the phonological loop (auditory information lasts only a few seconds if not rehearsed) and model of working memory

**Benjamin Bloom:** Created hierarchy for organizing educational goals