

Identifying Independent and Dependent Variables

Unit: What Is Psychology?

Name _____

Date _____

Part A: Determining Variables from Hypotheses

Instructions: For each research description below, identify the independent variable and the dependent variable.

1. A researcher hypothesizes that blondes really do have more fun.

Independent variable _____

Dependent variable _____

2. A developmental psychologist is testing the hypothesis that children in first grade know more words in the English language than children in Kindergarten.

Independent variable _____

Dependent variable _____

3. A clinical psychologist hypothesizes that people who have been diagnosed as having major depression will be more likely to also be diagnosed with an anxiety disorder than will people who have not been diagnosed with major depression.

Independent variable _____

Dependent variable _____

4. A pharmacologist is testing whether a new anti-anxiety medication, Moodcor, will cause people to gain weight.

Independent variable _____

Dependent variable _____

5. A developmental psychologist believes that if children successfully lie to their friends, they will be more likely to try lying to their parents.

Independent variable _____

Dependent variable _____

6. A personality psychologist believes that people who are more aggressive are more likely to purchase sports coupes than people who are less aggressive.

Independent variable _____

Dependent variable _____

7. A clinical psychologist hypothesizes that listening to an inspirational tape will lead one to be in a better mood.

Independent variable _____

Dependent variable _____

8. A clinical psychologist is testing his theory that people who experienced a brain injury are developmentally delayed to the age at which they experienced the injury (for instance, if one has a brain injury at the age of 10, that person will always act like they are 10).

Independent variable _____

Dependent variable _____

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PART B: Decoding a Journal Article's Title

These are titles taken from articles in a famous psychological journal. In the following titles, identify the independent (IV) and dependent variables (DV).

1. Motivated decision making: Effects of activation and self-centrality of values on choices and behavior.

IV: _____ DV: _____

2. The time for doing is not the time for change: Effects of general action and inaction goals on attitude retrieval and attitude change.

IV: _____ DV: _____

3. Humor as aggression: Effects of motivation on hostility expressed in humor appreciation.

IV: _____ DV: _____

4. Affective influences on self-disclosure: Mood effects on the intimacy and reciprocity of disclosing personal information.

IV: _____ DV: _____

5. The effect of negative performance stereotypes on learning.

IV: _____ DV: _____

6. The effect of accuracy motivation on anchoring and adjustment: Do people adjust from provided anchors?

IV: _____ DV: _____

7. The effects of majority versus minority source status on persuasion: A self-validation analysis.

IV: _____ DV: _____

8. Beyond gains and losses: The effect of need on risky choice in framed decisions.

IV: _____ DV: _____