A Machineless Teaching Machine

Instructions: Cover the items below with a piece of paper, lowering the paper item by item as you read. For each item fill in the blank spaces. The words in parentheses that preface the next item give the correct response. Use reasonable judgment in deciding whether your response is synonymous with the printed response. Now, read the items.

To determine whether a student has understood a point, a teacher may ____ him a question.

(ask) If the student gives an incorrect answer, the teacher may tell him the ____ answer.

(correct) Sometimes a teacher will ____ a student a question and then, if necessary, tell him the ____ answer.

(ask, correct) Confirmation of success is also a part of pedagogy. If the student gives the correct answer, then he receives ____ of success.

(confirmation) If the student answers correctly, his success is ____; if he answers incorrectly, the teacher tells him the ____ answer.

(confirmed, correct) A fast learner likes to advance rapidly, while a slower learner is happier at a slower rate, each student advancing best at his own ____.

(rate) It would require an individual tutor for each student to insure that each student advanced exactly at his ____ rate.

(own) The teacher of a classroom is not able to insure that each student advances exactly at his ____.

(own rate) A teaching machine presents a sequence of statements, one at a time, to the student. The student writes his responses on a strip of paper accessible through an opening in the machine. Each statement, in effect, ____ the student a question.

(asks) The student then operates the machine to make his written response inaccessible, but visible through a window, and to reveal the correct response for comparison. If the student is correct, his success is ____; if he is incorrect he is told the ____ answer.

(confirmed, correct) A teaching machine is like a teacher in that the student is ____ questions, his successes are ____ and his mistakes are ____.

(asked, confirmed, corrected) A teaching machine has the advantage of an individual tutor in that each student proceeds at exactly his ____

(own rate) An ordinary textbook also allows each student to proceed at his ____ rate, insofar as he is able to proceed by himself.

(own rate) But in an ordinary textbook the student is not ____ questions, nor are his successes ____ nor are his mistakes ____.

(asked, confirmed, corrected) James G. Holland and B. F. Skinner in their The Analysis of Behavior, published by McGraw-Hill, now offer a new kind of textbook that does offer these features. The book is, in effect, a machineless ____.

(teaching machine) The sequence of items that you are now reading is an example of the technique used in either a real teaching machine or in a ____ teaching machine.

(machineless) The new book makes for truly unforgettable reading, and we recommend that you ____ it.

(read).—J.T.