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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 _____, 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.