

## BRIEF SUMMARY

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**Denkinger, B., & Koutstaal, W. (2009). Perceive-decide-act, perceive-decide-act: How abstract is repetition-related decision learning? *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Learning, Memory, and Cognition*, 35, 742-756.**

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Recent encounters with a stimulus often facilitate or "prime" future responses to the same or similar stimuli. However, studies are inconclusive as to whether changing the response that is required attenuates priming only for identical stimuli, or also for categorically related items. In two object priming experiments, we show that priming was eliminated if the initial decision associated with a stimulus changed on a later trial. This disruption of priming extended to perceptually and conceptually similar object exemplars, and was found even when the classification tasks were *uncorrelated* with one another, many other items had intervened, and after only one prior encounter with a given stimulus. These outcomes are consistent with the rapid and automatic binding of a stimulus with a response into an episodic "instance" or "event file" and demonstrate that repetition-related decision learning is not hyper-specific but generalizes to new stimuli.

**KEYWORDS:** priming, stimulus specificity, response learning, task switching, automaticity, binding

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