

Dispositions

Put yourself in the shoes of a logical behaviorist. For each of the mental states given below, list 5 dispositions to behave which could constitute what it is to be in that mental state. (An example disposition is given for each.) Then answer the questions following your lists.

Mental state:	Behavioral dispositions:
The belief that the Nats will win the World Series.	EXAMPLE: The tendency to say “The Nats are going to win the World Series.”
	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
	5.

Mental state:	Behavioral dispositions:
The fear of spiders.	EXAMPLE: The tendency to regularly spray corners and window sills with insecticide.
	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
	5.

Mental state:	Behavioral dispositions:
The desire to lose weight.	EXAMPLE: The tendency to read blogs about weight loss.
	1.
	2.
	3.
	4.
	5.

Questions:

1. Some people can pretend to have certain beliefs, fears, or desires. Think, for example, of an actress who has taken on the role of someone completely unlike herself. Could a logical behaviorist distinguish between the actress, and someone who genuinely had those beliefs, desires, and fears? Explain.

2. Imagine a highly decorated soldier who is ashamed of his fear of battle, and carefully hides that fear. Could a logical behaviorist detect the soldier's fear, using the soldier's behavior? Explain.