learning and retention

learning

 the acquisition of novel information, behaviors, or abilities after practice, observation, or other experiences, as evidenced by change in behavior, knowledge, or brain function. Learning involves consciously or nonconsciously attending to relevant aspects of incoming information, mentally organizing the information into a coherent cognitive representation, and integrating it with relevant existing knowledge activated from long-term memory.

Retention

1. persistence of learned behavior or experience during a period when it is not being performed or practiced, as indicated by the ability to recall, recognize, reproduce, or relearn it.

2. the storage and maintenance of a memory. Retention is the second stage of memory, after encoding and before retrieval.

acquisition

the attainment by an individual of new behavior, information, or skills or the process by which this occurs. Although often used interchangeably with learning, acquisition tends to be defined somewhat more concretely as the period during which progressive, measurable changes in a response are seen.

memory

1. the ability to retain information or a representation of past experience, based on the mental processes of learning or encoding, retention across some interval of time, and retrieval or reactivation of the memory.

2. specific information or a specific past experience that is recalled.

3. the hypothesized part of the brain where traces of information and past experiences are stored.

forgetting

n. the failure to remember material previously learned.  Forgetting typically is a normal phenomenon but it may also be pathological, as, for example, in amnesia.

recall

1.to transfer prior learning or past experience to current consciousness: that is, to retrieve and reproduce information; to remember.

2. the process by which this occurs.