

Partial Interval Recording– Description, Procedures, & Example

You can measure a behavior that is not easily counted by observing the number of time-intervals in which the behavior occurred. A behavior is not easily counted when:

- It is difficult to tell exactly when the behavior begins or when it ends, or
- It occurs at such a high rate that it is difficult to keep a count on it.

Partial **interval** recording can be used to measure behaviors that happen so quickly that it is hard to catch (the behavior itself does not last for a long time). You will need a **timing** instrument such as a wall clock, wristwatch, or stopwatch in order to keep track of the time intervals. A **tape recording with a sound indicating the end of an interval can be made to provide an auditory cue signaling when to record your observation. Record whether or not the behavior occurred at the end of each interval (the behavior can occur any time during the time interval). Examples of behaviors that can be measured using partial interval recording include praising others, participating in class discussions, hitting, and cursing.**

Procedures

- * Write down the behavior that you will be looking for and its definition
- * Write down how long you will be observing every time: Total Observation Time
- * Divide the total observation time into 10 same length intervals; write down the length of each interval
 - All intervals need to be the same length: Intervals can be from a few seconds long up to a few minutes long (less than 11 minutes)

Note: Total observation time and length of intervals need to be the same each time that you observe

- * Enter the date of your observation and make sure that you have your timing instrument available prior to beginning your observation
- * Keep an eye on your timing instrument to keep track of the intervals
- * **During each time interval:**
 - Look to see if the behavior occurs
 - Once the behavior occurs, put an “X” in that interval
 - If, at the end of the interval the behavior did not occur, place an “O” in that interval
- * At the end of your observation time, total the number of checkmarks and create a percentage (This is what you graph)

Example

Behavior: Saying something nice

Behavior Definition: Making a statement to a peer or a teacher during class time, in a pleasant tone, which includes either praise or politeness, for example saying “you did well” or “excuse me”

Total Observation Time: 20 minutes

Length of each interval: 2 minutes

Date	Interval #										Total times behavior occurred (X)
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11/5	X	O	O	X	O	O	O	X	O	O	3