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Chapter 1: What Is Simple Apprehension?



Exercises for Day 1. Read the entire chapter. You may read it fairly quickly on this first reading. Try only to get a general idea of what the chapter is about. Read the beginning sections of Chapter 1: “What Is Simple Apprehension?” and “What Is Sense Perception?” Read these sections carefully and try to understand them as best you can.

1. What are the three things associated with simple apprehension?

First, we perceive something with our senses; second, we form an image of it in our mind; and, thirdly, we conceive its meaning.

2. Which one of the three parts of the answer to Question 1 is the simple apprehension itself?

The third: we conceive its meaning.

3. Which two of the three answers in Question 1 are connected with simple apprehension, but are not simple apprehension itself?

The first and second: perceiving something with our senses and forming an image of it in our minds.

4. Which one of the three things associated with simple apprehension (in Question 1) is present when we are looking at something with our eyes, but ceases once we are no longer looking at it?

The first: the perception of something with our senses.

5. Why is the sense perception of a chair different from the chair itself?

Because the sense perception occurs in our minds, while the chair exists outside of our minds.

6. What is the definition of ‘sense perception’?

Sense perception is the act of seeing or hearing or smelling or tasting or touching.

Exercises for Day 2. Read “What Is a Mental Image?” Read it carefully.

7. What happens in your mind when you have a sense perception?

We form a mental image.

8. When you remember something you have seen, say, a chair, are you having a sense perception or a mental image?

A mental image

9. Give one reason why a mental image of a chair must be different from the sense perception of the chair. While the sense perception lasts only as long as we are looking at the chair, the mental image can be present even when we are not perceiving the chair through our senses.

10. What is the definition of 'mental image'?
A mental image is the image of an object formed in the mind as a result of a sense perception of that object.

Read "What Is a Concept?"

11. What are you having when you understand the meaning of the concept 'chair'?
Simple apprehension

12. Is the simple apprehension you experience when you understand the meaning of an object, such as a chair, the same as or different from the sense perception you experience when looking at a chair or the mental image in your mind that results from the sense perception?
Different

13. Give one reason why a mental image must be different from simple apprehension itself.
While a mental image is representative of something tangible and material (for example, it has shape and color), simple apprehension is the grasp of something intangible and immaterial.

14. What is the definition of 'simple apprehension'?
Simple apprehension is an act by which the mind grasps the concept or general meaning of an object without affirming or denying anything about it.

15. What is another term used for simple apprehension?
Concept

Exercises for Day 3. Read "Concept vs. Image." Read it carefully.

16. What do we grasp when we have a simple apprehension of a thing?
We grasp the essence (or meaning) of the thing.

17. If you have a mental image in your mind when you think of the concept 'man,' and someone else has a different mental image, does that mean you are each thinking of a different concept? Explain, using the concept 'man.'

When we think of the concept man, we may have some kind of image in our mind, such as an actual man, tall, with blond hair, blue eyes, and light skin. But when someone else thinks of the concept man, he may have a completely different image in his mind. He may think of an actual man who is short, with dark hair, brown eyes, and dark skin. Although the mental images we have when we think of the concept man are completely different, that doesn't mean that we do not both understand the same concept man. We may have exactly the same understanding of what man is, yet have completely different mental images that we associate with it. (or something similar)

18. Offer an explanation for your answer in Question 17 above, only this time use an example other than that of 'man.'

(This answer should be similar to the one in 17, only using another concept.)

Read "Abstraction."

19. What is the definition of the term 'abstraction'?

The process by which a simple apprehension is derived from a sense perception or mental image is called abstraction.

Review Exercises.

22. What is the definition of 'logic'?

Logic is the science of right thinking.

23. On the basis of last week's reading, define 'truth.'

Truth is correspondence to reality.

24. Name the three types of logical processes (or acts of the mind) involved in logic.

Simple apprehension, judgment, deductive inference

25. Fill out the chart below, listing the mental acts and their corresponding verbal expressions in the order in which we have covered them:

Mental Act	Verbal Expression
Simple Apprehension	Term
Judgment	Proposition
Deductive Inference	Syllogism