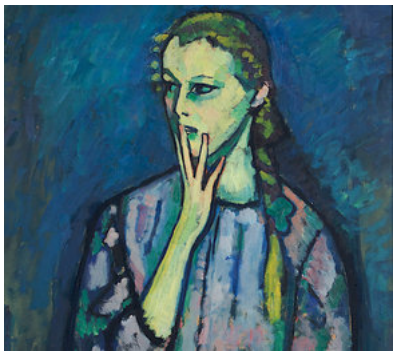

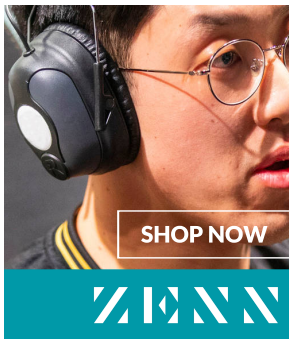

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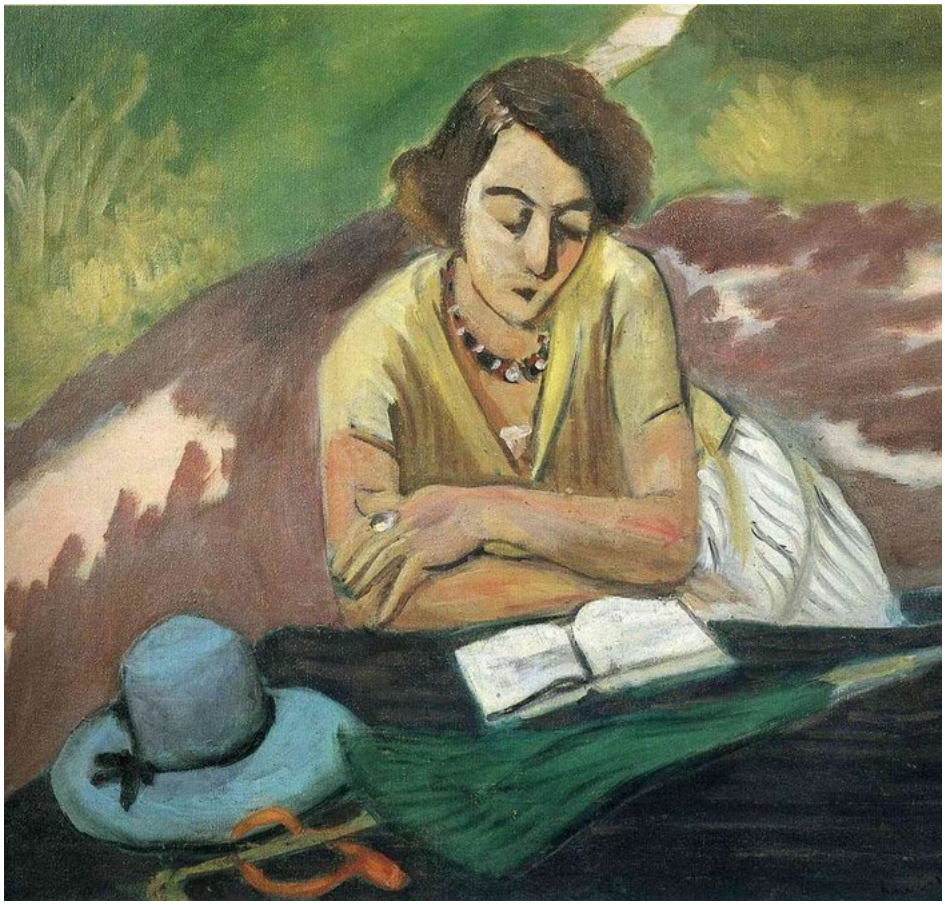
Types Of Thought

39 Types Of Thought Process

posted by John Spacey, March 14, 2016



Thought is the process of perceiving and making sense of the world or perhaps the universe. It includes severa types and approaches:

Abductive Reasoning

Formulating theories to explain what you observe.

Abstraction

Modeling ideas with concepts that differ from concrete reality.

Analogical Reasoning

Using an analogy to develop understanding and meaning.

Analytic Reasoning

Reasoning based on facts that require no interpretation based on experience.

Backward Induction

Reasoning backwards starting with potential conclusions.

Abductive Reasoning
Abstract Concept
Abstraction
Analogical Reasoning

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Design Thinking

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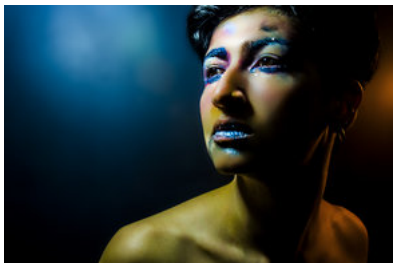
Cognition



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Opinion

Cognitive Biases

Patterns of thought that lead to suboptimal results such as poor decisions.

Cold Logic

Logic that fails to consider human factors.

Conceptual Thinking

The identification of patterns and abstractions in information.

Conjecture

The ability to guess at theories when information is missing.

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Contemplation

Deep reflective thought that involves absolute focus on an idea for an extended period of time.

Convergent Thinking

The process of finding the "correct answer" by following predetermined steps.

Counterfactual Thinking

Thinking about the impossible. For example, thinking about past choices not taken that are now impossible.

Creativity

Creating new and unique thoughts and products of thought.

Critical Thinking

Disciplined, systematic thinking that arrives at an opinion, judgment or critique.

Divergent Thinking

The ability to solve problems by considering a large number of solutions in a creative and exploratory way. Of contrasted with convergent thinking.

Emotional Intelligence

The ability to recognize and read emotions in yourself and others and use emotions in a directed way.

Flow

Flow is a state of focus in which a person is absorbed by tasks. Considered important to productivity.

Generalization

The ability to find general theories that explain observations.

Group Cognition

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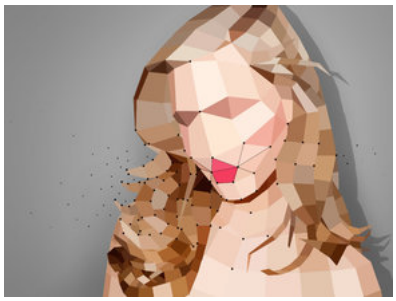
Salience



Practical Thinking

Social thought processes such as conversation, debate and peer review to build and challenge ideas.

Heuristics

Heuristics are practical approximations that aren't guaranteed to be optimal. They can be calculated quickly ar used to make decisions or react to fast moving situations.

Imagination

The ability to think about things beyond your direct experience or beyond present realities. Allows simulation support creativity, decision making, problem solving and prediction.

Inductive Reasoning

A process of formulating theories to explain observations that allows for guesses.

Inference

Inferring new facts from what you know.

Instinct

An innate tendency towards a complex behavior. For example, it has been suggested that people tend to be ins curious and social.

Internal Monologue

Thinking in words.

Introspection

The process of examining your own thoughts, emotions and thought processes.

Intuition

The ability to acquire knowledge and make judgments almost instantaneously without conscious thought. Carl it as "perception via the unconscious."

Judgement

Judgement is the process of evaluating information to guide actions and decisions.

Logic

Logic is the discipline of valid reasoning. It is essentially a formal approach to rational thought. However, log limitations that don't apply to rational thought. For example, some systems of logic can only consider true or f nothing in between.

Metacognition

Thinking about thinking.

Minds Eye

Visualizing with your mind including both realistic visualizations from memory or imagination and visual abs

Motivated Reasoning

Using logic to support a choice that's primarily driven by motivations such as desires and fears.

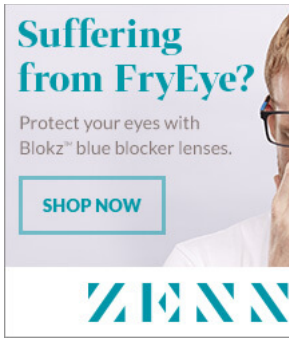
Prediction

Conjecture about future events typically supported by experience and information such as trends.

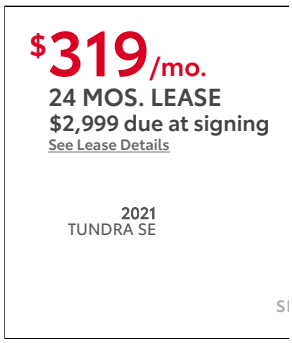
Rational Thought

A state of being reasonable. Often associated with logic. However, rational thought may use natural language, abstractions, heuristics and partial truths that go beyond the capabilities of formal logic.

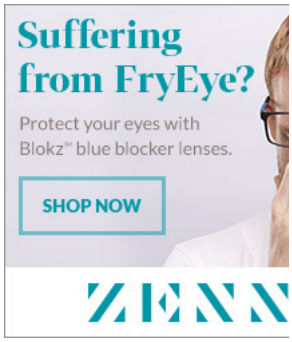
Reasoning



Creativity



Cognitive Biases



Design

A broad term that includes most types of thinking but excludes emotional thought processes and intuition.

Situational Awareness

Thought processes that deal with fast moving situations such as riding a bicycle. Related to perception, compr judgment, intuition and heuristics.

Social Cognition

The ability to successfully read and navigate social situations.

Speculative Reason

Reason that is theoretical as opposed to practical in nature. Speculative reason includes things such as contem philosophy.

Thought Experiment

Testing ideas in your head or on paper without need of acquiring real world data. Often involves either a proof principles or use of an analogy.

Thinking

This is the complete list of articles we have written about thinking.

Abstraction	Analytical Thinking	Cognition
Cognitive Abilities	Cognitive Biases	Concept
Decision Making	Design Thinking	Educated Guess
Emotional Intelligence	Fallacies	Four Causes
Generalization	Good Judgement	Human Factors
Idealism	Ideas	Independent Thinking
Information	Knowledge	Learning
Logic	Mental State	Mindset
Objective Reason	Opinion	Optimism
Perception	Positive Thinking	Practical Thinking
Problem Solving	Reality	Reason
Reflective Thinking	Salience	Scarcity Mindset
Selective Attention	Subjectivity	Systems Thinking
Thinking	Win-Win Thinking	Worldview

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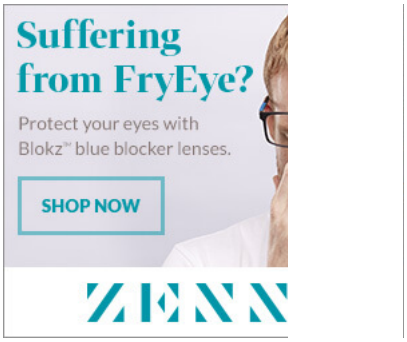
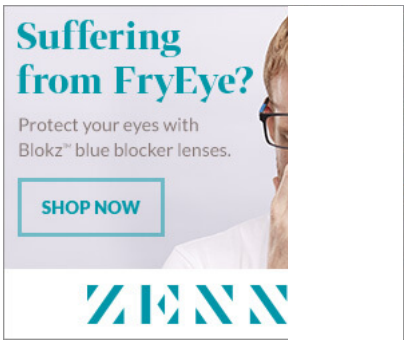
A few dangers of being too abstract.

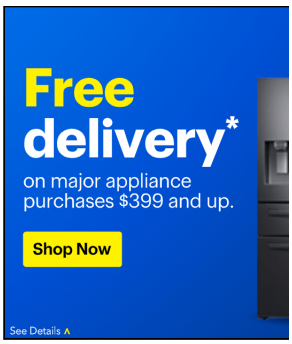
What is Analogical Reasoning?
An overview of analogical reasoning.



[Systems Thinking]



[Philosophy]



[What is Analytic Reasoning?]
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[Heuristics]

A few common types of heuristic.

[8 Types of Heuristics] »

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[13 Examples of the Halo Effect] »

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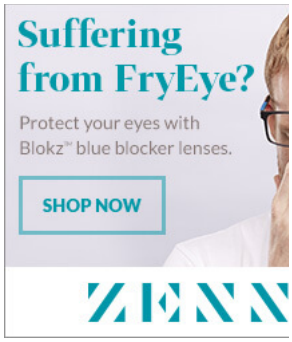

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