With Rationalism we are able to understand things that we have never experienced, like understanding how to fly a helicopter without having any actual experience. While the Empiricist would say that you can only gain the knowledge of flying an airplane by trying it.

*Idealism, George Berkeley notes:*

Berkeley rejects John Locke’s argument that we have sense experience and that the material world exists. Can’t say that sugar is sweet, we can only say that sugar creates an experience in your mind that we call sweet. “To be is to be perceived”. All perceptions are in our mind, and that does not exactly represent what actually exists outside the mind. Our senses are all we have, and that can lead to misunderstanding. The world may be very different from how we perceive it. All ideas are in the mind.

The thing causing the idea is not necessarily the same as the idea itself. The sound from a tree falling may not be from the tree itself. We will not accept ideas that we have not seen ourselves, must have direct experience in order for something to be true.

Primary qualities are viewed through secondary qualities (John Locke ideas). Shape, size, volume are primary qualities – certain. Secondary qualities are not for certain, and since we see primary through the secondary, then we must question the primary qualities as well. Berkeley suggests this is wrong.

Solipsism – the object exists only when *I* perceive it. (Total skeptic)

Objectivity – the object exists when *someone* perceives it.

Absolute – the object exists because God perceives it. God is all seeing and therefore everything exists.

*Punisher Popsicle Scene:*

The punisher uses mind tricks to convince the person that he is being burned by the torch. When really he is just creating the experience in his mind.

*George Berkeley dialog between Hylas and Philonous:*

None of our senses actually give us a perception of matter. You can never be sure that what you are perceiving reflects the real world. The only thing we can be sure about is our senses. In fact we don’t actually know of reality exists, because reality to us are the senses we perceive.