# are you conscious?\* - 05/09/2018

Does existence mean consciousness? If so, what to say about who consider the  
consciousness an illusion? For Chalmers, the consciousness is the thing \_we  
better know directly\_. Chalmers, following Descartes that doubted about  
everything in the world but didn’t doubt his thoughts, quoted: “I am conscious  
therefore I am”. No matter if consciousness emerges from the brain, that’s a  
second question. No matter whether the others are conscious, the most  
important and what we cannot deny is that we are conscious.  
  
To support his arguments Chalmers works with two important concepts in  
Philosophy of Mind. The first one is the zombies. A zombie can act as we act  
or can answer us as we answer, however they are not conscious but we are and  
we know they aren’t. We know our world hasn't only zombies without  
consciousness, it has humans and humans are conscious. The second is the  
qualia. Chalmers explains that the sound of music or a color or a taste, all  
are the quality of our experience, that is, the qualia. We can say our feeling  
of eating banana to the ones that have never eaten banana – they only would  
know when they eat banana.  
  
He concludes saying that the consciousness is more than physical processes in  
the brain. We could know everything about the brain but we wouldn’t know the  
consciousness. Using another well known argument, he describes the easy  
problem as the explanation and description of our behavior and the mechanism  
used by our brain during the experience (this is really complex!!!) and the  
hard problem as the explanation of why a conscious experience follows these  
chemical-physical processes. Why do we have this movie into our brain? That  
question will not be solved by neuroscientists because they only can explain  
objective things… and we have consciousness!  
  
   
  
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\* Some points of ”Why is consciousness so mysterious?”: https://youtu.be/NK1Yo6VbRoo?t=5