

Attempting
to
Define
the
Ephemeral

Tiger Dingsun

Parsing Philosophy: An Introduction

'Philosophy' is possibly the most abstract and hard to define word there is. Wikipedia defines 'Philosophy' as the study of the general and fundamental nature of reality, existence, knowledge, values, reason, mind, and language. But then, what is reality? What is existence? What is knowledge, values, reason, mind, and language? This flow chart was created by following the links in the first sentence for the article for 'philosophy', and then following the links of the first sentence on those pages, etc. etc. The results are incredibly recursive, and it seems that to be able to understand what 'philosophy' means, you have to first know what 'philosophy' means.

And yet, most people have a general sense of what the word 'philosophy' means.

How?

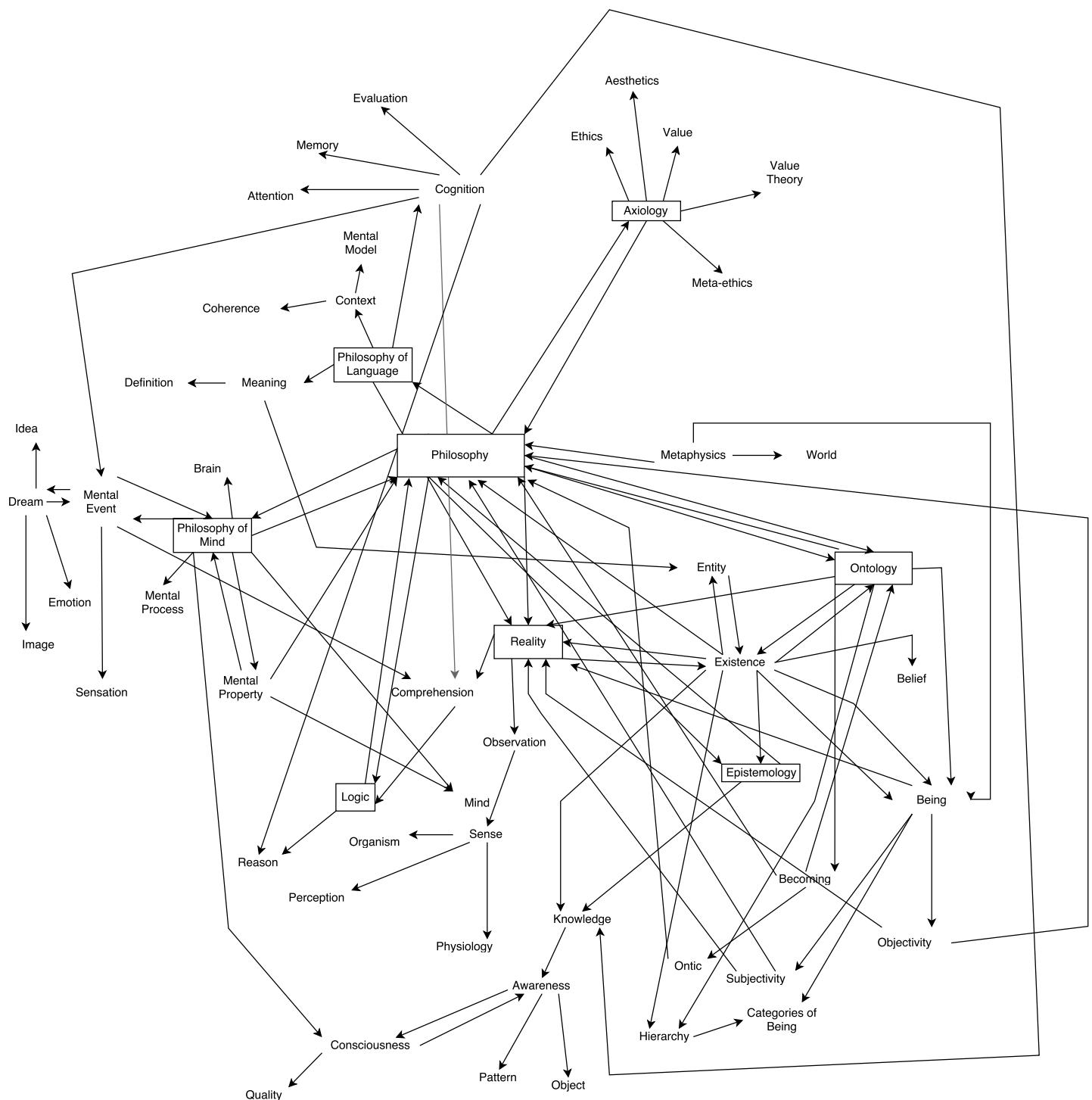
Parts 1 and 2 represent my own attempts at definition. Parts 3 and 4 are collections of other people's forays into the ephemeral.

Mental property

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

A **mental property** or a **mind property** is a **property** of a/the mind.

--An example of recursiveness on Wikipedia--



--Required vocabulary in order to understand the definition of philosophy--

Philosophy		
reality		
existence		
Ontology	repeat	
being	repeat	
reality	repeat	
categories of being		
	repeat	
metaphysics		
philosophy		
being		
world		
entity		
existence		
hierarchy		
Epistemology	repeat	
philosophy	repeat	
knowledge	repeat	
belief		
materialism		
monism		
matter		
substance theory		
nature		
mind		
consciousness		
consciousness	repeat	
being		
objectivity (philosophy)		
philosophy	repeat	
reality	repeat	
truth		
subjectivity		
philosophy	repeat	
consciousness	repeat	
agency (philosophy)		
personhood		
reality	repeat	
truth		
reality	repeat	
existence	repeat	
human		
observation		
sense		
physiology		
organism		
perception		
comprehension (logic)		
logic	repeat	
ontology		
philosophy	repeat	
being	repeat	
becoming (philosophy)		
philosophy	repeat	
ontic		
philosophy		
ontology	repeat	
existence	repeat	
reality	repeat	
categories of being		
metaphysics	repeat	
ontology	repeat	
being	repeat	
class (philosophy)		
epistemology		
philosophy	repeat	
knowledge		
awareness		
consciousness		
object (philosophy)		
pattern		
axiology		
philosophy	repeat	
value (ethics)		
ethics		
aesthetics		
value theory		
meta-ethics		
logic		
philosophy	repeat	
reason		
consciousness	repeat	
logic	repeat	
fact		
belief		
philosophy of mind		
philosophy	repeat	
mind		
cognition	repeat	
consciousness	repeat	
mental event		
mind	repeat	
dream		
image		
idea		
emotion		
sensation (psychology)		
mental process		
mind	repeat	
perception	repeat	
memory		
thought		
volition (psychology)		
emotion		
mental property		
property (philosophy)		
mind	repeat	
philosophy of mind		
	repeat	
ontology	repeat	
consciousness		
quality (philosophy)		
awareness		
brain		
philosophy of language		
meaning		
(philosophy of language)		
definition		
context (language use)		
cognition		
knowledge	repeat	
reality	repeat	

--List Format--

Part 1: Subtle Variations in Definition

Who, or what, determines what the correct definition of a word is? Does the correct definition have to come from an official institution (Oxford), or does the correct definition emerge from the most common usage (Urban Dictionary)? In addition, is there any variation in definition between two so-called ‘official’ sources? (Oxford vs. Dictionary.com).

PHILOSOPHY

Oxford Dictionary: noun (plural philosophies)

1. [MASS NOUN] The study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, especially when considered as an academic discipline. See also natural philosophy.

Dictionary.com: noun, plural philosophies.

1. The rational investigation of the truths and principles of being, knowledge, or conduct.

Urban Dictionary:

Contrary to some of the vacuous bullshit you'll find on this page, philosophy is a noble, no, possibly THE most noble academic discipline one can study. Sans repeating what our friend correctly said about the five major fields, I will say this: We live and die for philosophy. Even if we don't realize it, nearly everything we believe is predicated on someone's philosophical investigations. To debase the mother of all sciences as a "waste of the taxpayer's money" is to admit barefaced ignorance.

Oh yeah, and philosophy majors score higher than any other majors on the graduate exam; mathematics students come in second. Maybe they're doing something right.

PS. I'm not a philosophy major.

LOVE

Oxford Dictionary: noun

[MASS NOUN]

1. A strong feeling of affection

Dictionary.com: noun

1. A profoundly tender, passionate affection for another person.

Urban Dictionary:

Nature's way of tricking people into reproducing

KNOWLEDGE

Oxford Dictionary: noun

[MASS NOUN]

1. Facts, information, and skills acquired through experience or education; the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject.

Dictionary.com: noun

1. Acquaintance with facts, truths, or principles, as from study or investigation; general erudition

Urban Dictionary:

Giving someone oral sex.

THE INTERNET

Oxford Dictionary: noun

A global computer network providing a variety of information and communication facilities, consisting of interconnected networks using standardized communication protocols.

Dictionary.com: noun

A vast computer network linking smaller computer networks worldwide (usually preceded by the). The Internet includes commercial, educational, governmental, and other networks, all of which use the same set of communications protocols.

Urban Dictionary:

A series of tubes, not a big truck.

They want to deliver vast amounts of information over the Internet. And again, the Internet is not something you just dump something on. It's not a big truck.

It's a series of tubes.

And if you don't understand those tubes can be filled and if they are filled, when you put your message in, it gets in line and its going to be delayed by anyone that puts into that tube enormous amounts of material, enormous amounts of material...

Ten movies streaming across that, internet, and what happens to your own personal internet? I just the other day got, an internet was sent by my staff at 10 o'clock in the morning on Friday and I just got it yesterday. Why?

SOCIETY

Oxford Dictionary: noun (plural societies)

1. [MASS NOUN] The aggregate of people living together in a more or less ordered community.

Dictionary.com: noun, plural societies.

1. An organized group of persons associated together for religious, benevolent, cultural, scientific, political, patriotic, or other purposes.

Urban Dictionary:

A group of people that set a standard and everyone that is affected by that standard is part of it...

ETHICS

Oxford Dictionary: plural noun

1. [USUALLY TREATED AS PLURAL] Moral principles that govern a person's behaviour or the conducting of an activity.

Schools of ethics in Western philosophy can be divided, very roughly, into three sorts. The first, drawing on the work of Aristotle, holds that the virtues (such as justice, charity, and generosity) are dispositions to act in ways that benefit both the person possessing them and that person's society. The second, defended particularly by Kant, makes the concept of duty central to morality: humans are bound, from a knowledge of their duty as rational beings, to obey the categorical imperative to respect other rational beings. Thirdly, utilitarianism asserts that the guiding principle of conduct should be the greatest happiness or benefit of the greatest number.

Dictionary.com: noun

1. (Used with a singular or plural verb) A system of moral principles.

Urban Dictionary:

Morality with loopholes.

REALITY

Oxford Dictionary: noun (plural realities)

[MASS NOUN]

1. The state of things as they actually exist, as opposed to an idealistic or notional idea of them.

Dictionary.com: noun, plural realities for 3, 5–7.

1. The state or quality of being real.

Urban Dictionary:

A delusionary mental status caused by a pronounced deficiency of alcohol in the bloodstream.

VALUE

Oxford Dictionary: noun

1. [MASS NOUN] The regard that something is held to deserve; the importance, worth, or usefulness of something.

Dictionary.com: noun

1. Relative worth, merit, or importance.

Urban Dictionary:

The quality or state of condition. Something simple people pride themselves in or around.

CULTURE

Oxford Dictionary: noun

[MASS NOUN]

1. The arts and other manifestations of human intellectual achievement regarded collectively.

Dictionary.com: noun

1. The quality in a person or society that arises from a concern for what is regarded as excellent in arts, letters, manners, scholarly pursuits, etc.

Urban Dictionary:

-A term invoked by people who feel pride in accomplishments of others.

-A justification for all kinds of human rights violation.

-An outcome of evolutionary beneficial group thinking, and thus a racist generalisation.

-Also used in conjunction with 'history' for more pride and group thinking.

EXISTENCE

Oxford Dictionary: noun

[MASS NOUN]

1. The fact or state of living or having objective reality.

Dictionary.com: noun

1. The state or fact of existing; being.

Urban Dictionary:

The only possible situation.

(Inexistence doesn't exist. Therefore only existence exists. Therefore we exist)

BEING

Oxford Dictionary: noun

1. [MASS NOUN] Existence.

Dictionary.com: noun

1. The fact of existing; existence (as opposed to nonexistence).

Urban Dictionary:

＼(ツ)／

There aren't any definitions for being yet.

ART

Oxford Dictionary: noun

1 [MASS NOUN] The expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power.

Dictionary.com: noun

1. The quality, production, expression, or realm, according to aesthetic principles, of what is beautiful, appealing, or of more than ordinary significance.

Urban Dictionary:

Once when asked what Trans-Siberian Orchestra was about, Paul O'Neill replied, "It's about creating great art. When asked to define what great art was, Paul said, "The purpose of art is to create an emotional response in the person that is exposed to that art. And there are three categories of art; bad art, good art and great art. Bad art will elicit no emotional response in the person that is exposed to it, i.e.; a song you hear in an elevator and it does nothing to you, a picture on a wall that gives you the same emotional response as if the wall had been blank, a movie that chews up time. Good art will make you feel an emotion that you have felt before; you see a picture of a forest and you remember the last time you went fishing with your dad, you hear a song about love and you remember the last time you were in love. Great art will make you feel an emotion you have never felt before; seeing the pieta, the world famous sculpture by Michelangelo, can cause someone to feel the pain of losing a child even if they've never had one. And when you're trying for these emotions the easiest one to trigger is anger. Anyone can do it. Go into the street, throw a rock at someone, you will make them angry. The emotions of love, empathy and laughter are much harder to trigger, but since they operate on a deeper level, they bring a much greater reward.

EMOTION

Oxford Dictionary: noun

1. A strong feeling deriving from one's circumstances, mood, or relationships with others.

Dictionary.com: noun

1. An affective state of consciousness in which joy, sorrow, fear, hate, or the like, is experienced, as distinguished from cognitive and volitional states of consciousness.

Urban Dictionary:

1. A mental state that arises spontaneously rather than through conscious effort and is often accompanied by physiological changes; a feeling.

AESTHETIC

Oxford Dictionary: adjective

1. Concerned with beauty or the appreciation of beauty.

Dictionary.com: adjective

1. Relating to the philosophy of aesthetics; concerned with notions such as the beautiful and the ugly.

Urban Dictionary:

Something that tumblr weirdo's say way too often and use it for every damn thing under the sun. A generally annoying word.

TIME

Oxford Dictionary: noun

1. [MASS NOUN] The indefinite continued progress of existence and events in the past, present, and future regarded as a whole.

Dictionary.com: noun

1. The system of those sequential relations that any event has to any other, as past, present, or future; indefinite and continuous duration regarded as that in which events succeed one another.

Urban Dictionary:

Nature's way of keeping everything from happening all at once.

Love: A Case Study

Love: A case Study

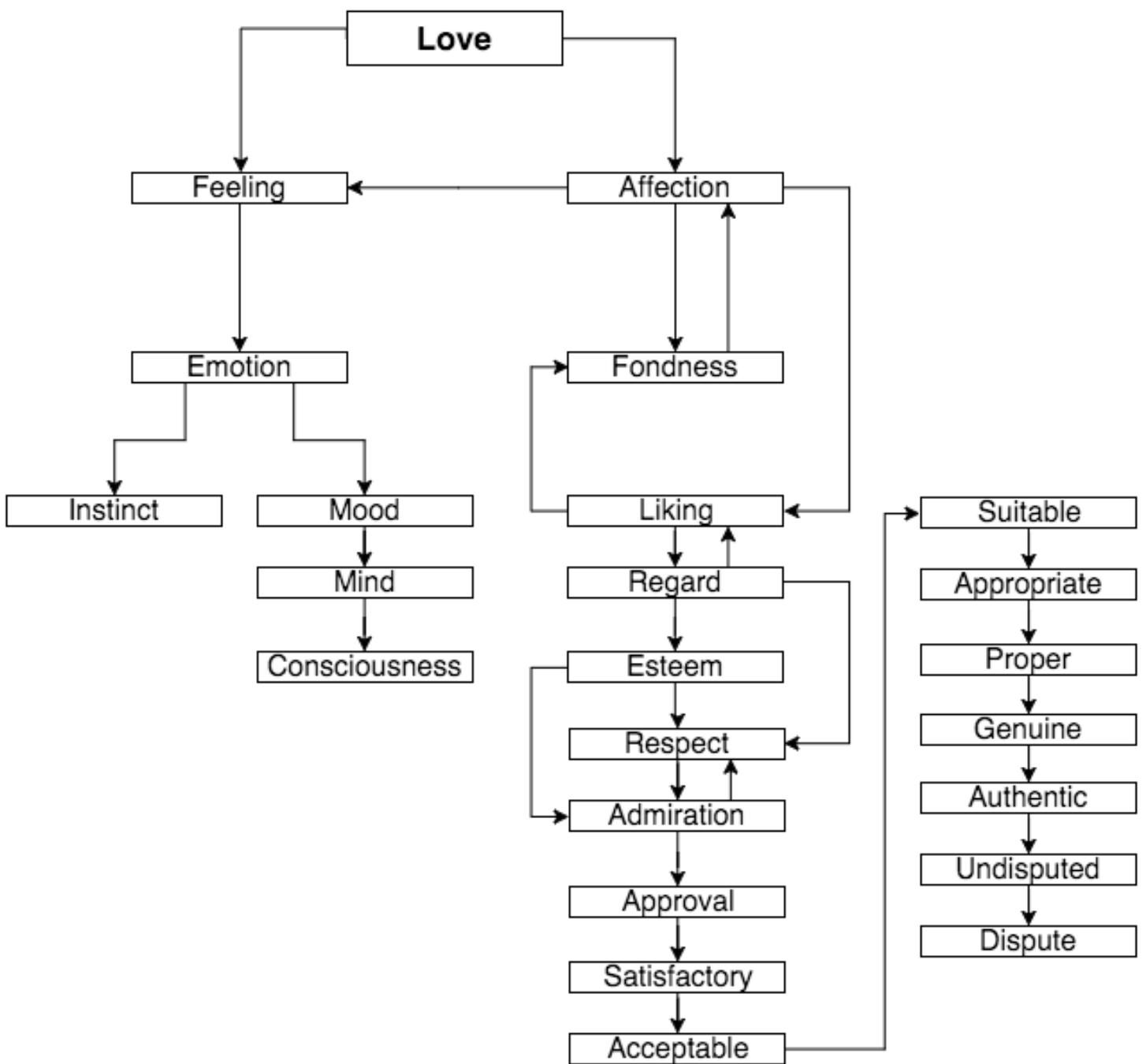
- Love
 - affection
 - feeling
 - fondess
 - affection
 - liking
 - regard
 - liking
 - esteem
 - respect
 - admiration
 - respect
 - approval
 - satisfactory
 - acceptable
 - suitable
 - appropriate
 - proper
 - genuine
 - authentic
 - undisputed
 - disputed
 - admiration
 - respect
 - fondness
 - liking
- feeling
 - emotion
 - instinct
 - mood
 - mind
 - consciousness

Outline

Process:

1. Start with the word ‘Love’ on the Oxford dictionary.
2. What words are needed to be able to define ‘Love’?
3. What words are needed to be able to define those words?
4. Repeat step 3.

It seems as though it is impossible to be able to understand what love is. But all of us have an idea of what it is, regardless of whether my idea of love is the same as your idea of love. Does the definition of word exist by itself, like a standard to be upheld? Or do the definitions of words solely exist within our minds?



Flowchart

Definition of *love* in English:

noun

- 1 An intense feeling of deep **affection**:
'babies fill parents with intense feelings of love'
'their **love for** their country'

Definition of *feeling* in English:

noun

- 1 An emotional state or reaction:
'a **feeling of joy**'

Definition of *affection* in English:

noun

- 1 A gentle feeling of fondness or liking:
'she felt **affection for** the wise old lady'
'he won a place in her **affections**'

Definition of *emotion* in English:

noun

- 1 A natural **instinctive** state of mind **deriving** from one's circumstances, **mood**, or relationships with others:

'she was **attempting** to control her emotions'
'his voice was low and **shaky** with emotion'
'fear had become his **dominant** emotion'

Definition of *fondness* in English:

noun

Affection or **liking** for someone or something:
'I **remember** him with great fondness'
'I have a **fondness for** spicy food'

Definition of *instinct* in English:

noun

Pronunciation: /'instiNG(k)t/ ⓘ

- 1 An innate, typically fixed pattern of behavior in animals in response to certain stimuli:

'birds have an **instinct to** build nests'
'maternal instincts'

noun

- 1 A temporary state of mind or feeling:

'he appeared to be in a very good mood about something'

Definition of *liking* in English:

noun

[IN SINGULAR]

A feeling of **regard** or **fondness**:

'Mrs. Parsons had a **liking for** gin and tonic'
'she'd **taken an instant liking to** Arnie's new girlfriend'

- 1.1 High opinion; **liking** and respect; **esteem**:
'she had a particular **regard for** Eliot'

Definition of *consciousness* in English:

noun

- 1 The state of being awake and aware of one's surroundings:
'she failed to regain consciousness and died two days later'

Definition of *mind* in English:

noun

- 1 The element of a person that enables them to be **aware** of the world and their experiences, to think, and to feel; the **faculty of consciousness** and thought:
'as the thoughts ran through his mind, he came to a **conclusion**'
'people have the price they are prepared to pay **settled in** their minds'

Definition of *esteem* in English:

noun

Respect and admiration, typically for a person:

'he was held in high **esteem** by colleagues'

Definition of *respect* in English:

noun

- 1 A feeling of deep **admiration** for someone or something **elicited** by their abilities, qualities, or achievements:

'the **director** had a **lot of respect for** Douglas as an actor'

Definition of *admiration* in English:

noun

- 1 Respect and warm **approval**:

'their **admiration for** each other was **genuine**'

Definition of *approval* in English:

noun

- 1 The action of **officially** agreeing to something or accepting something as **satisfactory**:

'the road plans have been given **approval**'

'they have **delayed** the **launch** to **await** project approvals'

Definition of *acceptable* in English:

adjective

- 1 Able to be agreed on; suitable:

'has tried to find a **solution acceptable to** everyone'

Definition of *suitable* in English:

adjective

Right or appropriate for a particular person, purpose, or situation:

'*these toys are not suitable for children under five*'

Definition of *appropriate* in English:

adjective

Pronunciation: /ə'prōprēət/ (audio icon)

Suitable or **proper** in the circumstances:

'*a measure appropriate to a wartime economy*'

Definition of *proper* in English:

adjective

1 [ATTRIBUTIVE] Truly what something is said or regarded to be; genuine:

'*she's never had a proper job*'

'*a proper meal*'

Definition of *genuine* in English:

adjective

1 Truly what something is said to be; authentic:

'*each book is bound in genuine leather*'

Definition of *authentic* in English:

adjective

1 Of **undisputed** origin; **genuine**:

'*the letter is now accepted as an authentic document*'

'*authentic 14th-century furniture*'

Definition of *undisputed* in English:

adjective

Not **disputed** or called into question; accepted.

[WITH OBJECT]

1 Argue about (something); discuss heatedly:

'*I disputed the charge on the bill*'

[NO OBJECT]: 'he taught and **disputed with** local poets'

Definition of *love* in English:

noun

1 An intense feeling of deep **affection**:

'*babies fill parents with intense feelings of love*'

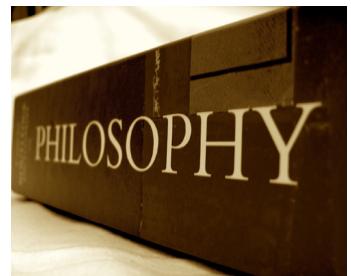
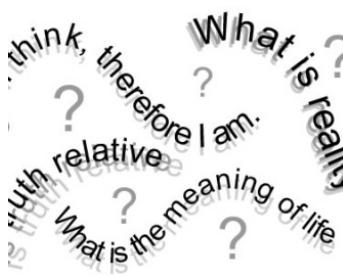
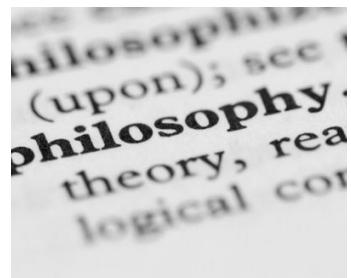
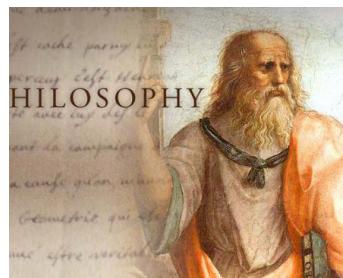
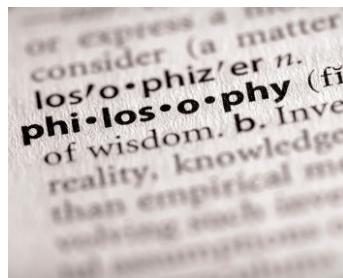
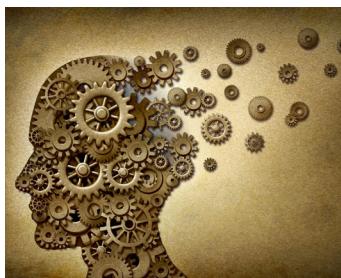
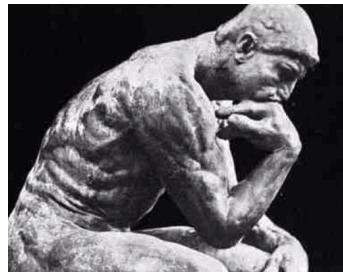
'*their love for their country*'

Part 2: Pictoral Representations

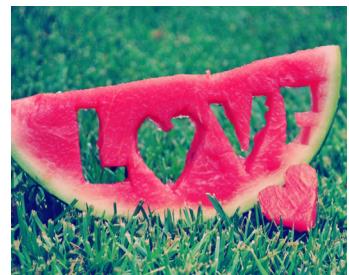
It's hard to define these huge, abstract concepts with words. So how about pictures?

The first few Google Image searches should reveal what is the visual equivalent to a dictionary definition. However, I quickly realized that many of the images relied on cliché and metaphors, or otherwise were just a picture of the word itself, in text. Still, some of the images are able to convey emotions and feelings that the dictionary definitions could not.

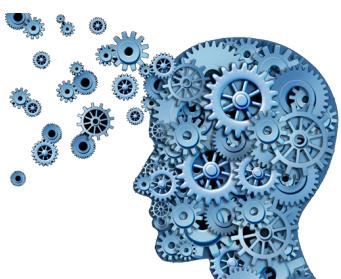
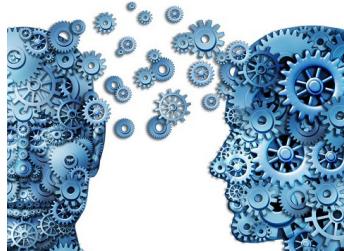
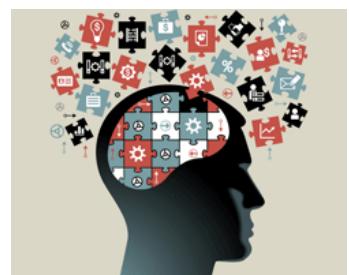
PHILOSOPHY



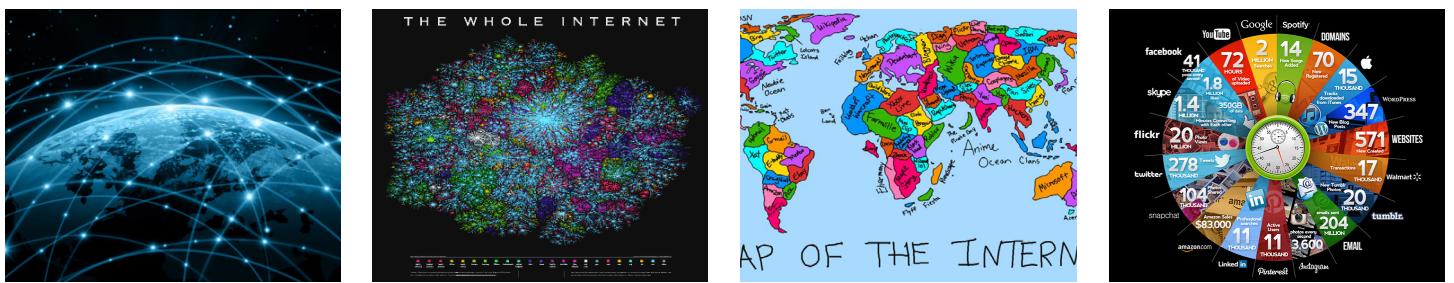
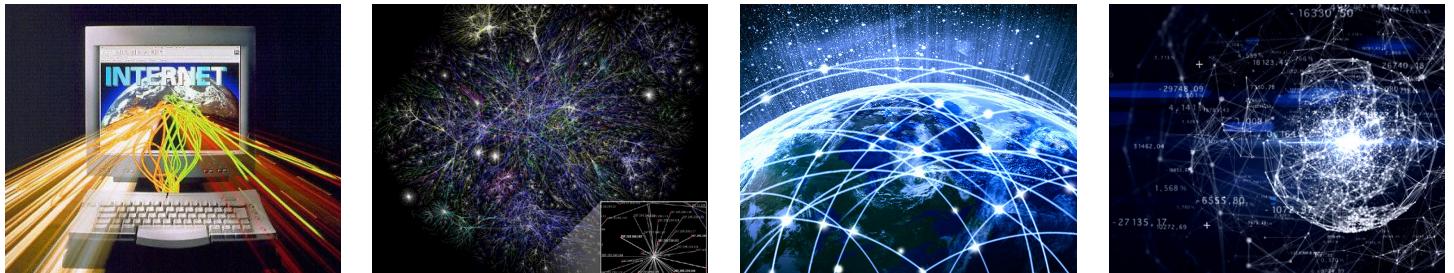
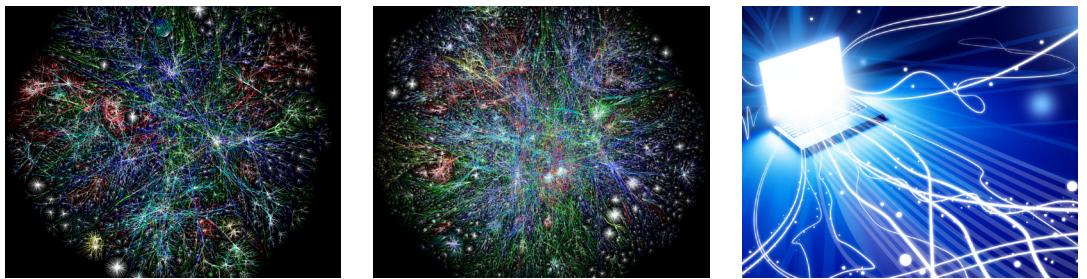
LOVE



KNOWLEDGE



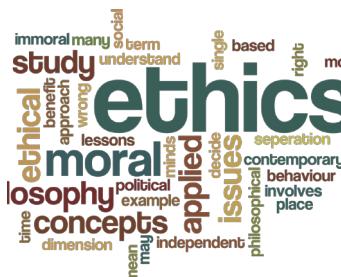
THE INTERNET



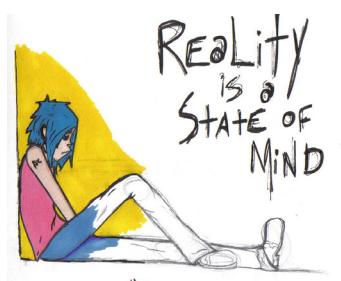
SOCIETY



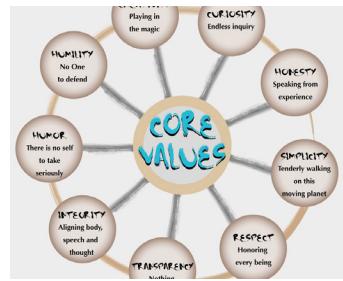
ETHICS



REALITY



VALUE



**It's not hard to
make decisions ~**

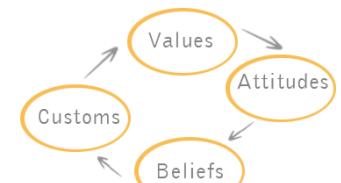


**once you know what
your **VALUES** are.**

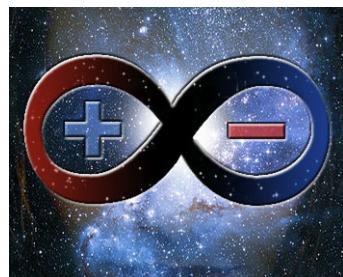
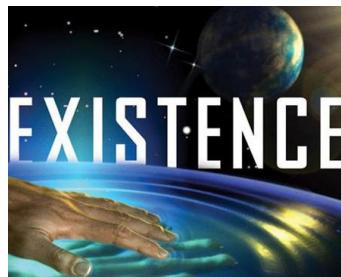
~ Roy E. Disney



CULTURE

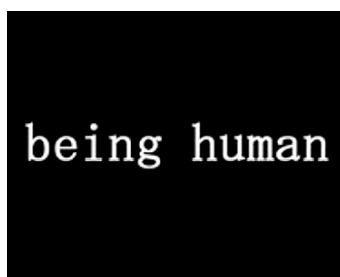


EXISTENCE



BEING

BEING



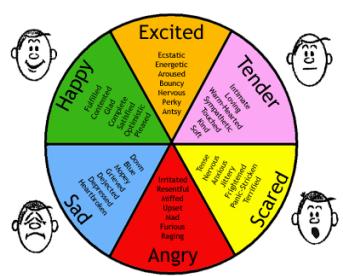
BEING
HUMAN



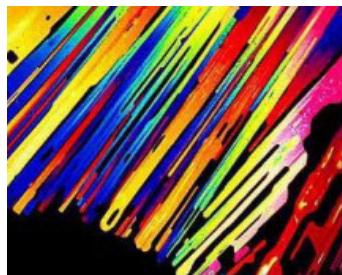
ART



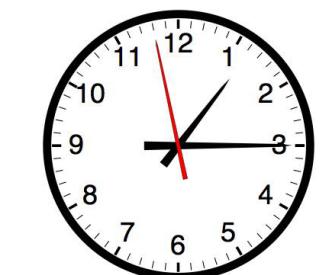
EMOTION



AESTHETIC



TIME



Part 3: Idiosyncratic Definitions

Several attempts at (spoken) definition by several different people.

Not only does this show the individual differences in comprehending and codifying a word, but it also shows the difficulties in sharing one's own personal definition.

These definitions may or may not be what the person actually considers the definition of the word to be, but they are their best efforts at concretely putting meaning into words. It is the best that they can muster up, the best attempt at defining ephemerality.

Whether they are accurate or not (and what is accuracy, anyways, when definitions are so hard to pin down?), there is something decidedly human about these attempts that no dictionary definition could ever successfully convey.

PHILOSOPHY

PERSON 1: The study of thinking.

PERSON 2: Umm... A set of Ideas... about. I don't-- this is really. That's a bad one to start with.

PERSON 3: Umm.... Arguing about useless things... that mean nothing in the end.

PERSON 4: Um... Philosophy i think is just.. questioning and.. understanding the basic elements of our existence and.. why we act and.. understand our own humanity and what we do.

LOVE

PERSON 1: Mmm... um.... People...want... the feeling umm.. attraction... to... something.

PERSON 2: Comfort. But not, like, i dont know. It's like, understanding and comfort. ... Takes a long time.

PERSON 3: Uhh brain chemistry.

PERSON 4: I think love is when.. whether its with a thing, a person, or idea, umm... when you feel very passionate and connected and as much a part of that... extension of yourself as you do as an individual and like without that extension of youself, there's something incomplete in whole identity.

KNOWLEDGE

PERSON 1: Information.

PERSON 2: Uhh... Is this supposed to be like, our interpretation? Or is it supposed to be the way that we would define it-- Or is it... our interpretation of the question? (Yeah) Ok. So I'm gonna interpret it more liberally and say knowledge is... equipment to-- or, like your, being equipped to process and think about things.

PERSON 3: Umm.... Memories stored in your brain.

PERSON 4: Um... Knowledge as in, not necessarily purely academic, I think knowledge comes in like an intuitive form, in an academic form, in a social form, in... an empathetic form... It's really just... being able.. to... sort of finding a finesse in relating to a specific topic or understanding of a specific interaction. A finesse of a specific interaction.

THE INTERNET

PERSON 1: The Internet... is uhhh...connections....between... everything.

PERSON 2: A network... that connects anyone with access to anything that exists on it.

PERSON 3: The world wide web? (laughs) How do you describe the Internet? Its-- an interwoven net of connections in the digital sphere. Is that good?

PERSON 4: I think the internet is a... It's almost like an all encompassing interface of.. not only human footprint, but human experience, interaction, and, i mean, interaction that I would not even consider human, sort of created by the internet itself. So it is it's own culture, philosophy, thing to be attatched to.

SOCIETY

PERSON 1: Uh... Community... between... beings.

PERSON 2: A group of humans and what accompanies that in terms of dynamics.

PERSON 3: Society is the mutual agreement between human beings to create some sort of organization to further our own species.

PERSON 4: Um... Society is sort of the way that people organize themselves, um.. Society contains culture, interaction, and just basically the way that our humanity is structured, whether that's physically or... invisibly.

ETHICS

PERSON 1: What... is considered.... to be... correct... or not... morally.

PERSON 2: A general knowledge of what is right and wrong and what is good or bad.

PERSON 3: Ethics is what society determines to be right and good or bad in order to propagate said society and it's cultural values.

PERSON 4: Um. Ethics are, i think, the keystone moral scruples, or like, the very structural moral guidelines that can be very broad or... individual? is that--? Um... Yeah, so like, I don't know, moral scruple.

REALITY

PERSON 1: Consciousness... or what we consider to be... to be, that period.

PERSON 2: um... I don't know what reality is. (laughs)

PERSON 3: Umm.... Well... I don't think it's possible [to define reality].

PERSON 4: I don't think that you can ever really define reality, because reality is ever changing, by second, by experience, and by filtered past memory. So, to an extent, reality is always a distortion of a present experience based on... environmental factors.

VALUE

PERSON 1: Values... Lightness and darkness of... drawing and painting.

PERSON 2: Um... Well, values can mean a lot of things. What... you know typically something... a variable that can change or... if it's personal values, there... uhh.. things that you think... are moral.

PERSON 3: Umm... What a certain culture or individual deems important or unimportant.

PERSON 4: Um... Value.... is based on intention of power, or placing power in something... thats either... an emotion so something intangible, or... not experienced in the physical world, or something that is tangible and very physical. So that distribution of power and time and attention and ultimate... i mean-- no, in some-- i guess in some instances love or affection, but in other instances, simply, um.... concentrated... affection or uh.... worth.

CULTURE

PERSON 1: The.. The... Umm... Culture is... no, no yeah, the way of life of people, and their cultures, the way they do things.

PERSON 2: Things that make up the identity of... what people that come from the same place and experience.

PERSON 3: Culture is... a society specific set of values which propagate itself through... different... means? Question mark?

PERSON 4: I think culture is... like the manifestation of multiple expressions within a community, and maybe how those expressions are... um, how those expressions find continuity, and then how those expressions differ from each other. So culture is not something that is homogenous but something that is really something that is um... heterogenous, different, and varied, based on race, class... um.

EXISTENCE

PERSON 1: Umm... existence is... anything that has been... thought of.

PERSON 2: The fact of being.

PERSON 3: Umm.... I suppose the way we define existence would be... all of our... sensory experiences

PERSON 4: Umm.... I don't know... I mean.... I don't know.

BEING

PERSON 1: Being... um... To be present... in the moment.

PERSON 2: Existing.

PERSON 3: Being is.... your.... acknowledgement of your presence within... an environment.

PERSON 4: This is not an all encompassing answer but like on a personal level I think that being... or having a sense of being is having a sense of self. So having a sense of physical presence is like, knowing exactly where your body stands, or like being aware of your own body, but then also being aware of your own mentality and self-conscious, and so being able to like, to connect the physicality of your own body with the conscious, or like the humanity that is very intangible.

ART

PERSON 1: Art... is... anything... that... is considered... worthy... of thought.

PERSON 2: Anything... that you want it to be.

PERSON 3: Um... What we consider to be... valuable which has no practical use.

PERSON 4: Art... Art can--... I think art is when you attach some sort of meaning or intention... behind... uh... thought, a physical object, or even an invisible concept. It's all about intention.

EMOTION

PERSON 1: Emotion... is... it's chemicals in your brain.

PERSON 2: Umm... a way of thinking... that is... less... processed.

PERSON 3: Uhh also brain chemistry.

PERSON 4: Um... Ok so, maybe emotion is a more physical and explicit understanding or processing of experience, or... i mean that experience can be self-created... or... perpetrated onto an identity or self, so it's very much like based on environmental factors.

AESTHETIC

PERSON 1: What is considered... to be... visually... appealing, psychologically to people.

PERSON 2: Uhh... That's a way to describe the way that something fits into a characterization of what it looks like.

PERSON 3: So good. Everything.

PERSON 4: Umm... (laughs) uhhh.... I guess aesthetic is continuity or essence of continuity in a large body of objects and thoughts, emotions, that like, there's an explicit connection.

TIME

PERSON 1: Time... is a linear system, which we... beings... live on.

PERSON 2: Thats so hard. Umm... time? ... It's a dimension.

PERSON 3: Umm.... Well... It's a physical construct.

PERSON 4: Time is linear... and time is like this straightforward... ugh no it's not linear (laughs) um. We experience time in a linear fashion... but um... Ok. This is the way I understand time. Time is as if you are one particle in the ocean, and although the ocean is moving forward, the particle itself is only moving vertically. So it's moving linear but it's also recycling, although there's also this push forward.

Part 4: Individuality and Frustration

Like with Part 3, asking other people to define these terms often led to a lot of frustration. It is just as hard, if not harder, to come up with written and pictoral definitions than it is to come up with verbal definitions.

There are also a lot of parallels to Part 2. Often, people had to rely on established metaphors (Ex. Time = Clock) in order to convey a concept using an image.

Every definition merely offers one part, one perspective of the meaning of a word. It is only when you consider them all together, that you get even a sense of the many meanings a word can have.

Often, people don't think in words. They think in thoughts. But until someone figures out how do directly transmit thoughts into other people's heads, language will have to suffice in order to communicate with others.

PHILOSOPHY

How would you define it in words?

a methodical study of life and existence

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**KNOWLEDGE**

How would you define it in words?

an understanding of things

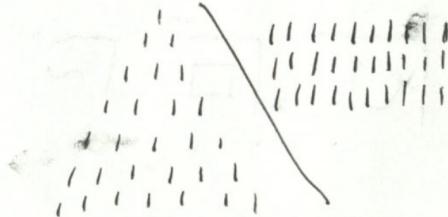
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**SOCIETY**

How would you define it in words?

a collection of people who like in the same place (?)

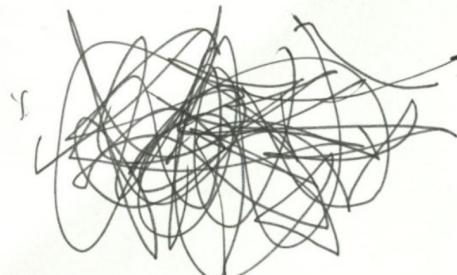
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**REALITY**

How would you define it in words?

The idea of the way things exist and what exists.

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**LOVE**

How would you define it in words?

a feeling of connection, trust, and comfort for a person or place

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

*idk***THE INTERNET**

How would you define it in words?

a network of information and ~~information~~ communication

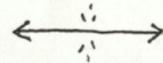
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**ETHICS**

How would you define it in words?

The debate over what is good, bad right, and wrong.

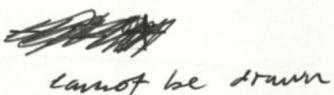
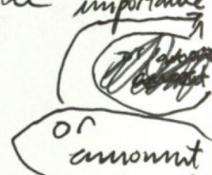
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**VALUE**

How would you define it in words?

an attribute that defines the importance of something.

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?



CULTURE

How would you define it in words?

a collection of shared experience
and stories; things that relate
to a group of people or a place

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**EXISTENCE**

How would you define it in words?

the concept of "being"

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

BEING

How would you define it in words?

existing

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**ART**

How would you define it in words?

an expression of culture

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**EMOTION**

How would you define it in words?

aggregate feelings

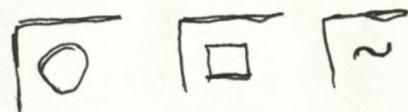
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**AESTHETIC**

How would you define it in words?

a style used to quantify beauty
^{/define}

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**TIME**

How would you define it in words?

the progression of existence

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?



PHILOSOPHY

How would you define it in words?

Thinking

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**KNOWLEDGE**

How would you define it in words?

Information Known

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**SOCIETY**

How would you define it in words?

People living together

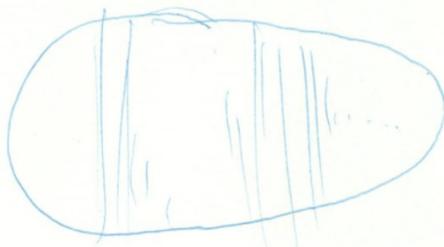
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**REALITY**

How would you define it in words?

Perception

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**LOVE**

How would you define it in words?

Connection

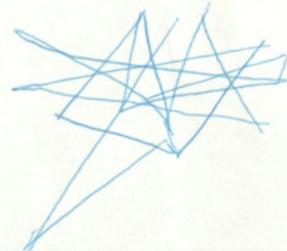
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**THE INTERNET**

How would you define it in words?

Interconnected

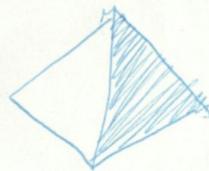
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**ETHICS**

How would you define it in words?

What society sees to be right and wrong

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**VALUE**

How would you define it in words?

Lightness and Darkness

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?



CULTURE

How would you define it in words?

Way of Life

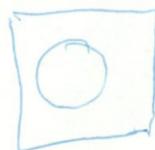
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**BEING**

How would you define it in words?

To occupy

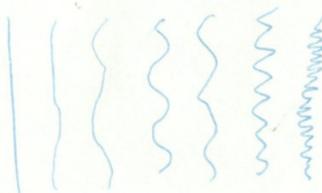
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**EMOTION**

How would you define it in words?

Neurological Chemical Reactions

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**TIME**

How would you define it in words?



Derivative

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**EXISTENCE**

How would you define it in words?

To be

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**ART**

How would you define it in words?

Something worth thinking about

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**AESTHETIC**

How would you define it in words?

A way of being

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?



PHILOSOPHY

How would you define it in words?

Our way of interpreting experiences

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**KNOWLEDGE**

How would you define it in words?

Information stored in memories & the application of that info

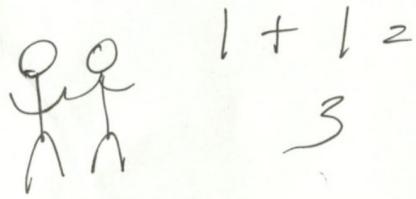
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**SOCIETY**

How would you define it in words?

agreement between people to achieve mutual benefit

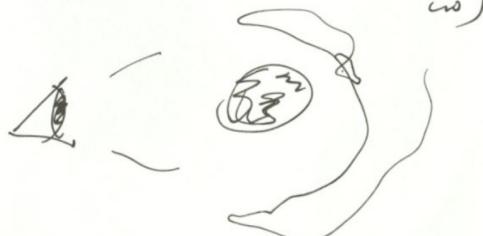
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**REALITY**

How would you define it in words?

*unattainable**low understanding of the world & events (us)*

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**LOVE**

How would you define it in words?

brain chemicals (hormones)

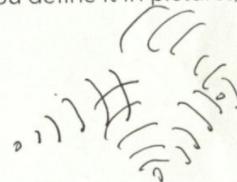
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**THE INTERNET**

How would you define it in words?

interconnected through electromagnetic signals

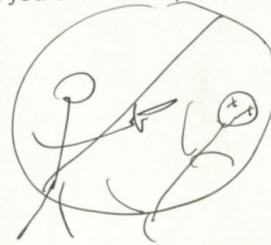
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**ETHICS**

How would you define it in words?

Society's definition of right & wrong based on social contract

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**VALUE**

How would you define it in words?

what we assign worth to relatively

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

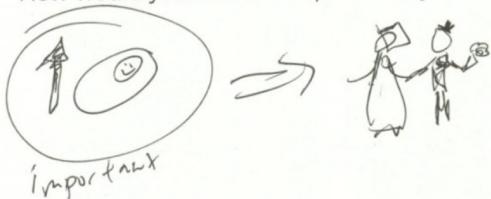


CULTURE

How would you define it in words?

derivative of societal ethics & values

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**BEING**

How would you define it in words?

awareness of self

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**EMOTION**

How would you define it in words?

down chemicals

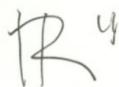
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**TIME**

How would you define it in words?

4th dimension

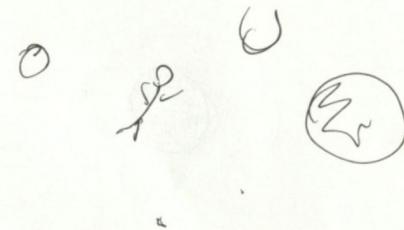
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**EXISTENCE**

How would you define it in words?

awareness of self within or place / context

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**ART**

How would you define it in words?

what society values beyond its utility

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**AESTHETIC**

How would you define it in words?

things that appeal to human taste

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?



PHILOSOPHY

How would you define it in words?

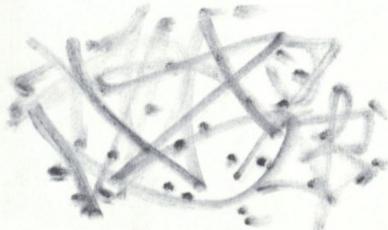
she study it
every day &
nothing at once

KNOWLEDGE

How would you define it in words?

stuff in ur brain

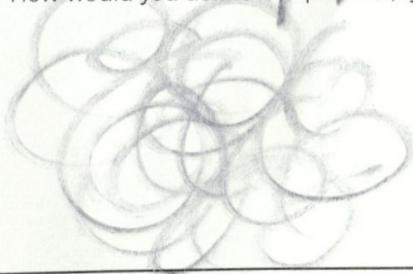
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**SOCIETY**

How would you define it in words?

many ppl

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**REALITY**

How would you define it in words?

REALITY IS
DEAD.
LONG LIVE THE
VIRTUAL!

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

LOVE

How would you define it in words?

a social construct
that guarantees
reproductive continuation
of human species
(aka not a thing)

biochemical

THE INTERNET

How would you define it in words?

an alterate world

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

& existence, a
possibility

ETHICS

How would you define it in words?

right v. wrong,

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

but not
really,

VALUE

How would you define it in words?

capitalistic \$\$\$

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

CULTURE

How would you define it in words?

many ppl making things

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

things

BEING

How would you define it in words?

knowing if gonna die

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

EMOTION

How would you define it in words?

feelz

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

TIME

How would you define it in words?

oppressive + nonexistent

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**EXISTENCE**

How would you define it in words?

being a thing, death

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**ART**

How would you define it in words?

CRAP

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

(also :
about quantity
not quality)

AESTHETIC

How would you define it in words?

a way of life

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

PHILOSOPHY

How would you define it in words?

The contemplation of knowledge and life. The study and observation of the universe and the methodical direction of society, individuals, and the civilization.

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?



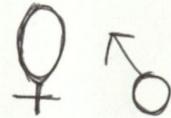
of the universe and the methodical direction of society, individuals, and the civilization

LOVE

How would you define it in words?

affection, altruism, lust

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**KNOWLEDGE**

How would you define it in words?

perception and understanding information and facts

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**THE INTERNET**

How would you define it in words?

not real

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

www.

SOCIETY

How would you define it in words?

The agreement among individuals to follow a certain rule/contract

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?



in order to ensure every each person's security and financial security

ETHICS

How would you define it in words?

morality and conscience

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**REALITY**

How would you define it in words?

objective / subjective truth

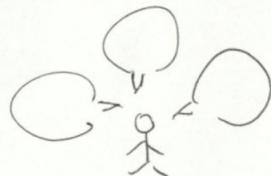
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**VALUE**

How would you define it in words?

what a person believes

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?



CULTURE

How would you define it in words?

~~The systematic groupings or categorizing of people based on a common~~

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?



historical,
geographical
background

EXISTENCE

How would you define it in words?

~~The basic state of being~~

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**BEING**

How would you define it in words?

~~an a state of existence, consciousness like it's like power
a living creature~~

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**ART**

How would you define it in words?

~~like it's like power~~

~~I know, it when I see, no~~

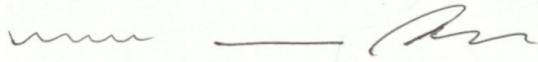
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**EMOTION**

How would you define it in words?

~~emotional affect~~

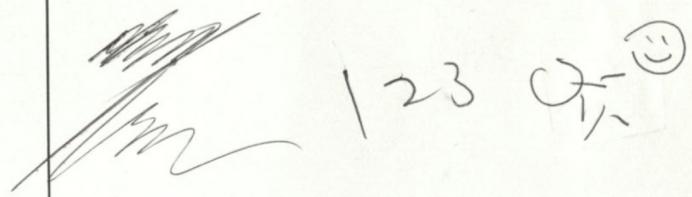
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**AESTHETIC**

How would you define it in words?

~~artistic style - artist's choice~~

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**TIME**

How would you define it in words?

~~a kind of measurement
past, present, future~~

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

~~abstract
concept~~



PHILOSOPHY

How would you define it in words?

Modes of thought

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**KNOWLEDGE**

How would you define it in words?

The contents of your mind, in information, experience, and ability

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**SOCIETY**

How would you define it in words?

People

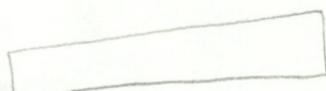
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**REALITY**

How would you define it in words?

Everything that exists in space & time but not only in the mind

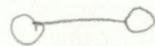
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**LOVE**

How would you define it in words?

Feeling affectionate for or deeply caring for an entity outside yourself

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**THE INTERNET**

How would you define it in words?

The online network that is the worldwide web

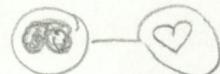
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

*www.***ETHICS**

How would you define it in words?

Morals

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**VALUE**

How would you define it in words?

How important something is to an outside entity

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?



CULTURE

How would you define it in words?

traditions, rituals, and way of life of a society

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**BEING**

How would you define it in words?

Existing in a state

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**EMOTION**

How would you define it in words?

Feelings

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**TIME**

How would you define it in words?

A dimension we exist in, in addition to space

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?



or



or

**EXISTENCE**

How would you define it in words?

The state of being

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**ART**

How would you define it in words?

something created with the purpose of being aesthetically pleasing or relayng deeper meaning

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**AESTHETIC**

How would you define it in words?

How something looks

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?



4

PHILOSOPHY

How would you define it in words?

thinking

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**KNOWLEDGE**

How would you define it in words?

accumulation of data

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**LOVE**

How would you define it in words?

hate < liking

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**THE INTERNET**

How would you define it in words?

the interweb

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**SOCIETY**

How would you define it in words?

social group × 10

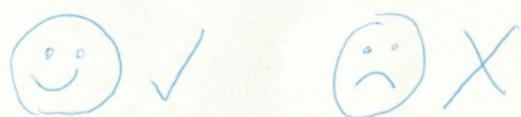
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**ETHICS**

How would you define it in words?

code of right/wrong

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**REALITY**

How would you define it in words?

truth?

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

no
fuck you

VALUE

How would you define it in words?

worth

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?



CULTURE

How would you define it in words?

group of religion,
language, etc.

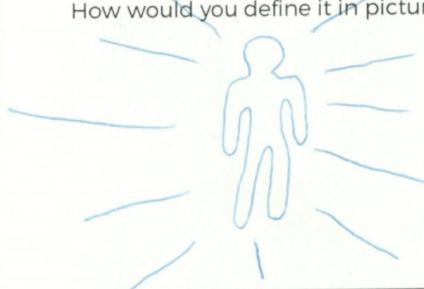
How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**BEING**

How would you define it in words?

existing

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**EMOTION**

How would you define it in words?

feelings

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**TIME**

How would you define it in words?

passage of day/night

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**EXISTENCE**

How would you define it in words?

twilight zone theme song

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**ART**

How would you define it in words?

goodness in things

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

**AESTHETIC**

How would you define it in words?

style

How would you define it in pictures/symbols?

no idea
you suck

AN INCONCLUSIVE CONCLUSION

How do we learn language? How do we connect language with concepts? How do we communicate these concepts?

What does it mean to define a word? What does it mean to communicate an idea?

How much of a difference is there between a word and its definition? between a word and its meaning? Between my meaning of a word and your meaning? Between my meaning of a word and our collective society's idea of the word? Between the many definitions that a word can have?

How does language acquisition work? When we babies, first learning a language, how is it that we are able to associate a meaning to a word? Is all knowledge based on other, prior knowledge? If so, what knowledge comes a priori?

How can I be sure that your red is the same as my red, that your blue is the same as my blue, that your idea of love is the same as my idea of love?

Is language, in the end, just a pale shadow of true knowledge and meaning? Does true knowledge and meaning even exist at all? Does Plato's world of Forms really exist, or does all meaning come from our minds? Does love exist outside of our minds?

What is philosophy? What is thought? What is knowledge? What is existence? What is reality? What is language? What is a word? What is meaning? What is definition?