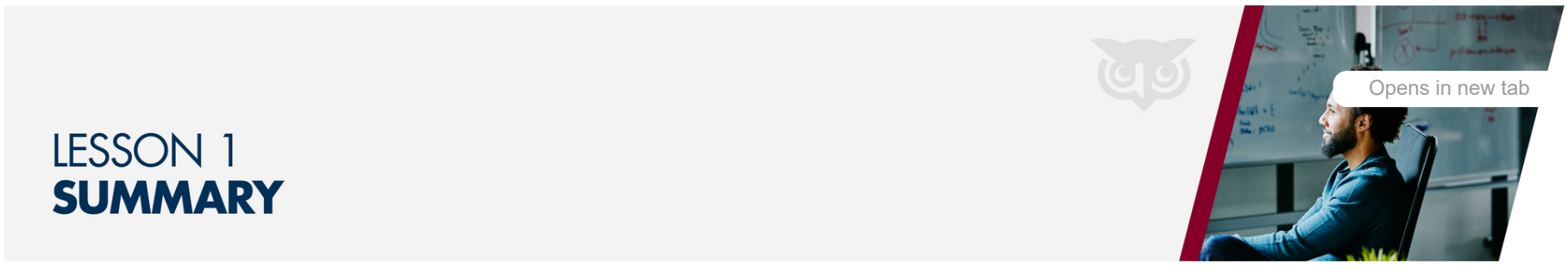
Lesson 1: Summary



Lesson 1: Summary

Take a moment to think about what you learned in this lesson.

- A system is a group of interacting, interrelated, or interdependent parts that form a complex, unified whole with a specific purpose.
- A collection is a group of parts without interrelationships or a unified purpose, or both.
- Systems also contain events, patterns, and organizing structures.
- Systems thinking is used to solve important, chronic, familiar problems that have not been successfully solved in the past.
- Systems are viewed as having feedback loops rather than linear cause-and-effect patterns. Feedback loops create reinforcing and balancing processes.
- When analyzing a system to identify problems, one can compare the current reality to the desired future reality by asking a series of questions about assumptions, vision, mental models, systemic structures, patterns, and events.
- Systems thinking is especially helpful when engaged with an important issue containing a chronic, well-known problem that has resisted past efforts at a solution.
- Systems thinking can be explained using the five Cs: curiosity, clarity, compassion, choice, and courage.
- A systems orientation ultimately points to alternative ways of thinking and acting.

Next Step

Now move on to the lesson quiz.

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