



Essentials of Formal Logic

with Joelle Hodge

Lesson 7: Chapter 3.2

Outline:

Chapter 3, Lesson 3.2

- Formal Logic and Three Acts of the Mind
- Points to Remember
 - The three basic building blocks of categorical logic are: 1) the term; 2) the proposition; and 3) the argument.
 - The three acts of the mind are: 1) simple apprehension; 2) judgments; and 3) inferences.
 - Simple apprehension occurs when we put things into groups, classes, or categories in our minds.
 - When we think about a relationship between two terms, we make a judgment.
 - We make an inference when, after making one or more judgement propositions, we conclude that yet another proposition necessarily follows from the first ones.
- “Never be afraid to sit awhile and think.” Lorraine Hansberry
- Simple Apprehension
 - Simple apprehension occurs when we put things into groups, classes, or categories in our minds.
 - We usually do this automatically, without really thinking about it when we are doing it.
 - We are mentally place these things into a group or class of similar things with which we are familiar.
 - When we engage in simple apprehension, it results in our naming the category or class to which something we have apprehended belongs.
 - In categorical logic, the mental category in which we place something is called a term.
- Judgements
 - We have to make sure that simple apprehension is correct to allow for inferences.
 - When we think about a relationship between two terms, we make a judgment.
 - In the world of categorical logic, the relationships we are usually interested in are ones of class inclusion.
 - Notice that when we think or speak of the relationship between two terms, we do so in the form of a proposition.
 - It is very important to get our judgements correct.
- Inference



- We make an inference when, after making one or more judgement propositions, we conclude that yet another proposition necessarily follows from the first ones.
- Inference only comes if and only if we get our simple apprehension correct and if we get our judgments correct.
- Deduction in Action
 - If you use logic, one of its greatest personal benefits is the ability it gives you to examine and clarify your own personal thoughts, or your own mental acts.
 - “The unexamined life is not worth living.” Socrates
 - One of the reasons it is so important to examine our own thoughts, or mental acts is because doing so can save us from a lot of worry.