Essentials of Formal Logic
with Joelle Hodge

Lesson 9: Chapter 4.2

Outline:

Chapter 4, Lesson 4.2

- Categorical Form Introduced, Translating Propositions into Categorical Form
- We have to speak in categorical terms. We are trying to build arguments by creating true statements about how categories of things are related to each other.
- We affirm that two categories are related or negate that they are related.
- Points to Remember
    - Categorical form is the arrangement of terms and words in a proposition so that the proposition either **affirms (supports)** or **negates (denies)** something about a specific topic.
    - Translating arguments into categorical form is a process.
    - Arranging an ordinary-language proposition into categorical form is the **first step** in the process of translating arguments into categorical form.
- "Don't take the wrong side of an argument just because your opponent has taken the right side." Baltasar Gracian
- Remember that in formal categorical logic we can learn how to evaluate whether or not an argument is valid – that is, uses right reasoning form – **regardless of the content of the argument**.
- Remember that in formal categorical logic we can learn how to evaluate whether or not an argument is valid—that is, uses right reasoning form—regardless of the content of the argument. This is because although an argument's content is important, when people use deductive logic, they usually reason from *a priori* propositions. Therefore, since the content of the propositions is a given, they are focusing more on the structure of the argument. Since the content of a categorical argument is not the main focus, logicians have developed a commonly agreed-upon symbolic system to represent the building blocks of a deductive argument—**terms, propositions, and arguments**.
- You need terms to create propositions and propositions to create arguments.
- Logic and Paradoxes
    - "If everything is at rest when it is in a place equal to itself, and if the moving object is always in the present and therefore in a place equal to itself, then the moving arrow is motionless."