

Linguistics, Epistemology, Metaphysics

The analytic/synthetic distinction is linguistic, about meanings or concepts.

All bachelors are unmarried; 'bachelor' contains 'unmarried'.

This apple is red; there's nothing in 'apple' which means 'redness'.

The *a priori/a posteriori* (empirical) distinction is epistemological, about how we know or justify a belief.

We know that all bachelors are unmarried without seeing any bachelors.

I believe that the apple is red because I see the redness when I look at it.

The necessary/contingent distinction is metaphysical, about ways the world may or must be.

Bachelors are unmarried in all possible worlds.

This apple is red, but it could have been (and probably was) green.

Classify each of the following claims as linguistic (analytic or synthetic); epistemological (*a priori* or empirical); or metaphysical (necessary or contingent).

- _____ 1. Whales are mammals since it is part of the concept of a whale that it bears its young.
- _____ 2. Our belief that whales are mammals is not the result of inductive generalization.
- _____ 3. Whales must be mammals.
- _____ 4. Some Coen brothers movies are funny, but others are not.
- _____ 5. 'Hail Caesar' is funny, I heard from a friend.
- _____ 6. It is not part of the meaning of 'Hail Caesar' that it is funny.
- _____ 7. The consecutive angles of all parallelograms are supplementary.
- _____ 8. A parallelogram may be a rhombus.
- _____ 9. By analyzing the meaning of 'rhombus', we find that it is a parallelogram.
- _____ 10. I know that parallelograms are rhombi without drawing or seeing one.
- _____ 11. If we add the concept of an equal-sided quadrilateral to the concept of an equal-angled quadrilateral, we find that some rhombi are rectangles.
- _____ 12. It is impossible for a body to be non-extended.
- _____ 13. All bodies are extended, since it is part of the concept of a body that it have a size.
- _____ 14. I know that all bodies are extended without experiment.
- _____ 15. A body might be heavy, but it might be light.
- _____ 16. The concept of 'body' does not included 'heaviness'.
- _____ 17. To know whether a body is heavy or light, we have to measure it.