

Gateway

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3-232-083

32 |

My friend was disappointed [that scientific progress has not cured the world's ills by abolishing wars and starvation]; [that gross human inequality is still widespread]; [that happiness is not universal]. My friend made a common mistake — a basic misunderstanding in the nature of knowledge. Knowledge is amoral — not immoral but morality neutral. It can be used for any purpose, but many people assume it will be used to further their favorite hopes for society — and this is the fundamental flaw. Knowledge of the world is one thing; its uses create a separate issue. To be disappointed [that our progress in understanding has not remedied the social ills of the world] is a legitimate view, but . To argue [that knowledge is not progressing because of the African or Middle Eastern conflicts] misses the point. There is nothing inherent in knowledge [that dictates any specific social or moral application].

- ✓ to confuse this with the progress of knowledge is absurd
- to know the nature of knowledge is to practice its moral value
- to remove social inequality is the inherent purpose of knowledge
- to accumulate knowledge is to enhance its social application
- to make science progress is to make it cure social ills

Words & Phrases

- abolish
- universal
- assume ()
- flaw ,
- legitimate ,
- absurd ,
- starvation
- amoral ,
- understanding
- inherent ,
- accumulate
- gross
- neutral
- further
- remedy ,
- dictate ,
- enhance

Problem-Solving Strategies

Step 1

() .

- : (a basic misunderstanding in the nature of knowledge)
- : (many people assume it will be used to further *their* favorite hopes for society)
-

: .
(Knowledge of the world is one thing; its uses create a separate issue.)

Step 2

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- (To be disappointed that our progress in understanding has not remedied the social ills of the world is a legitimate view, but)
- _____ .
- ... 가

Step 3

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- 가 : 가
 - : 가 (There is nothing inherent in knowledge that dictates any specific social or moral application.)
- ☞ , 가 ' .

Exercises



01

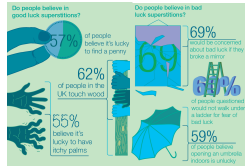
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A dentist friend of mine is famous for being one of the few pain-free dentists in the country. People flock from everywhere to come and see him. In his office he has a button on the dentist's chair [which you can hold on to during treatment]. Whenever you feel the slightest discomfort, you can push the button and he will respond to your pain. He has fewer requests for painkillers than any other dentist. The truth is [that people very seldom make use of the button]. The reason behind this is [that, by having access to the button, people feel they have control]. They are not helpless and, because of that, the biggest pain-inducer of all, anxiety, disappears.

praise
reward

✓ control
reputation

dignity



02

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A common myth most of us intuitively accept is [that there is a negative correlation between intelligence and belief: as intelligence goes up, belief in superstition or magic goes down]. This, in fact, turns out not to be the case, especially as you move up the IQ spectrum. When people with above-average IQ encounter claims [that they know little about] [which is most claims for most of us], intelligence is usually not a factor in belief, with one exception: once people commit to a belief, the smarter they are the better they are at rationalizing those beliefs. Thus, smart people believe weird things because they are skilled at defending beliefs they arrived at for nonsmart reasons].

analyzing
challenging

✓ defending
abandoning

identifying

* intuitively



03

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Scientific experiments should be designed to show **that your hypothesis is wrong** and should be conducted completely objectively with no possible subjective influence on the outcome. Unfortunately few, if any, scientists are truly objective. They have often decided long before **the experiment is begun** what they would like the result to be. This means **that very often bias is (unintentionally) introduced into the experiment, the experimental procedure or the interpretation of results**. It is all too easy to justify to yourself why an experiment **which does not fit with your expectations** should be ignored, and **why one which provides the results you 'hoped for' is the right one**. This can be partly avoided by conducting experiments **'blinded'** and **by asking** others to check your data or repeat experiments.

approved
informed

blinded
isolated

deceived

We may tell ourselves that we'll just answer one quick e-mail or make one short phone call. But in reality, switching tasks sends us down a rabbit hole, pulling our attention away from our priority work for much longer than we anticipate.



04

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Even if you have **cast-iron willpower**, the mere fact **that the Internet is lying in wait on your computer** causes damage to your work performance. The very act of **resisting temptations eats up** concentration and leaves you mentally **exhausted**. Psychologists demonstrated this in a 2011 study. **Participants** at the University of Copenhagen were told to perform a computer task. Afterward, some of them were allowed to watch a funny video, while the others were faced with a play button for the video, but had to resist pressing it. **When confronted with an additional task afterward, those who had to resist the video performed worse than those who were allowed to watch it**.

- increasing noises
- starting new tasks
- using your computer
- resisting temptations
- repeating the same thing

In short, committing to ignore distractions is rarely enough. Like Franzen, we must strive to remove them entirely from our field of attention. Otherwise, we'll end up using half our mental energy just keeping ourselves from breaking our own rules.

Exercises

41

3-232-088

05

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An edge^s that happy^s people have^v for building physical resources^v is how well they deal with unexpected^s, difficult^s events. How long can you hold your hand in a bucket of ice water? The average duration^s before the pain gets to be too much^v is between sixty and ninety seconds. Rick Snyder, a professor at Kansas and one of the fathers of Positive Psychology, used this test on *Good Morning America* to demonstrate^v the effects of positive emotion on coping with difficulty^s. He first gave a test of positive emotion to the regular cast. By quite a margin^s, Charles Gibson, host^s of *Good Morning America*, outscored^v everybody. Then, before live cameras, each member of the cast put his or her hand in ice water. Everyone^s, except Gibson, pulled^v their hands out before ninety seconds had passed^s. Gibson, though, just sat there grinning^v, and still had his hand in the bucket when a commercial break was finally called^s.

(no was)

* grin

- ✓ coping with difficulty
- promoting physical fitness
- accomplishing more tasks

- cooperating with others
- coming up with new ideas

I don't know [whether she comes or not]

I will go [whether she comes or not]



3-232-089

06

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Psychologist Daniel Gilbert says that our brains must believe something in order to process it, if only for a split second. Imagine I tell you to think of pink elephants. You obviously know that pink elephants don't actually exist. But when you read the phrase, you just for a moment had to picture a pink elephant in your head. In order to realize that it couldn't exist, you had to believe for a second that it did exist. We understand and believe in the same instant. Benedict de Spinoza was the first to conceive of this necessity of acceptance for comprehension, and, writing a hundred years before Gilbert, William James explained the principle as "All propositions, whether attributive or existential, are believed through the very fact of being conceived." Only after the conception do we effortfully engage in disbelieving something and, as Gilbert points out, that part of the process can be far from automatic.

* existential

- doubt for faith
- ✓ conformity to group norms
- acceptance for comprehension

- arbitrary relationship
- consensus through bargaining



07

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Research into the impact of Twitter covers the content of the billions of messages found on the microblog. Such research reveals why Twitter is a valuable tool for measuring public opinion. The sentiments expressed in the tweets regarding political issues can be as accurate a measure as is found with traditional telephone surveys. One study analyzed one billion tweets from 2008 through 2009 and found that on issues such as consumer confidence and presidential approval, opinions expressed in the tweets matched survey findings on the same topics. This result suggests that Twitter users should not be considered an unusual subset of the general population, but rather a group whose opinions are (at least collectively) fairly mainstream and representative.

* mainstream

- how Twitter projects a distorted view of reality
- how politicians use Twitter to influence public sentiment
- that Twitter is potentially dangerous to political authorities
- why Twitter is a valuable tool for measuring public opinion
- that Twitter users are the most influential online consumers

Twitter is an accurate measure.

Twitter is as accurate a measure as the others.

08

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Indeed, abstracting is difficult for people in every discipline. Many famous novelists Mark Twain and Ernest Hemingway come to mind have written to their editors that they regretted the extreme length of their manuscripts; if they had had more time, the work would have been half as long. Winston Churchill is supposed to have said that he could talk for a day with five minutes' notice but needed a day to prepare if he had only five minutes in which to speak. The poet Edwin Arlington Robinson shifted from writing short verse to lengthy works as he got older, remarking, "I am over sixty now, and short poems require too much effort." The essence of writing, these individuals say, is not putting words on the page but

learning to recognize and erase the unnecessary ones.

* manuscript

- translating brain signals into speech
- making use of other people's resources
- making the choice between good and bad
- communicating all your thoughts to the world
- learning to recognize and erase the unnecessary ones



09

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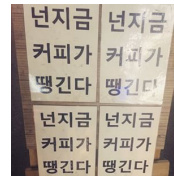
One lesson I learned **early on** is **that** _____. If you become unhappy because someone in a room or in your class or in your group of friends is smarter than you, better looking than you, or richer than you, you are bound to be unhappy all of your life because inevitably someone will be smarter, richer, etc. Each of us has some exceptional talent some of us are good at one thing and not another, some excel at kindness to others, some at sports, some at math, some at selling, and some at managing others. Develop your best talents and do not dwell on what you are not good at. And do not become distracted by people who try to make you feel inferior just because you cannot do precisely what they can do. Eleanor Roosevelt put it well, "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." So don't consent to it.

- hard work beats talent
- all human beings are equal
- no one is good at everything
- happiness increases self-confidence
- it is important to nurture young talent



10

(A), (B) 가 ?



The fact that we've heard a claim repeated over and over again doesn't make it correct. But it can lead us to accept this claim as correct even when it's not, because we can confuse a statement's (A) _____ with its accuracy. Advertisers who tell us repeatedly that "Seven of eight dentists surveyed recommended Brightshine Toothpaste above all other brands!" employ this principle without mercy. Furthermore, research shows that hearing one person express an opinion ("Joe Smith is the best qualified person to be President!") 10 times can lead us to assume that this opinion is as widely held as hearing 10 people express this opinion once. Hearing is often (B) _____, especially when we hear a statement over and over again.

- | (A) | | (B) |
|-------------|-------|-------------|
| strength | ..... | believing |
| familiarity | ..... | questioning |
| importance | | questioning |
| familiarity | | believing |
| importance | | learning |



11

(A), (B)

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Every individual has a biologically based inner nature comprised of elements that are common to the species and those that are unique to that individual. Charles Darwin referred to humans possessing an instinct of _____ (A), and this would appear to be an important survival instinct for the species. However, much of Western thinking sees human nature as self-centered, selfish and destructive, summed up in one of Freud's favourite quotes, which came from the Roman writer Plautus: 'Man is a wolf to man.' This 'bad-animal' view of humans might be seen as based on humans who are not at a high level rather than on the healthiest human beings. Furthermore, it _____ (B) the mountain of evidence that humans can be cooperative and caring as well as unfriendly and uncaring. How people act appears to be largely a matter of training and of how much their animal nature is nourished or frustrated.]

* nourish

(A)		(B)
competition	.....	ignores
ownership	accepts
sympathy	identifies

(A)		(B)
competition	accepts
sympathy	ignores

12

(A), (B)

가

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When you seek a partner, you need to evaluate a prospective partner's temperament. Temperament refers to a person's characteristic manner of thinking, behaving, or reacting. An effective and satisfying partnership depends on the compatibility of the partners' temperaments. There is no set combination that works, but _____ (A) temperaments often work well. A partner who doesn't do well with managing emotions is a good match for one who does. A partner quick to jump to conclusions works well with one who is more considered in his judgments. In contrast, partners who are inclined to be both short-tempered and impulsive are likely to have a stormy and unstable relationship. If both tend to be indecisive, they will have difficulty making timely decisions. If both are guided by the pursuit of _____ (B), they will fall far short of their goals.

* temperament

(A)		(B)
similar	.....	perfection
various	.....	difference
complementary	.....	perfection

(A)		(B)
similar	.....	convenience
complementary	.....	difference