

# Lessons - A Way to Think - The Thing Asserted and Definite Not

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Version: 0

Date Started: 3/6/2025

Date First Version: 7/6/2025

Date Updated: 7/6/2025

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## Previous Lessons

Lessons – A Way to Think – The Null Case <https://humanistman.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Lessons-A-Way-to-Think-The-Null-Case.pdf>

## Introduction

People assert things - I call it the “Thing Declared” - the **definite is asserted**.

One of the most obvious Things for Humans is death or **Bad** - the thing that will kill you. Humans are hard wired to try to avoid death.

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Humans will carry around in their mind a concept of Bad - a definite is (is Bad) and will use this as one of their main frames.

### The Definite Bad Asserted

Once **Bad** has been asserted then we put it on a continuum with something to compare it to. We call this other asserted thing definitely **Not Bad**.

Humans generally try to avoid Bad things.

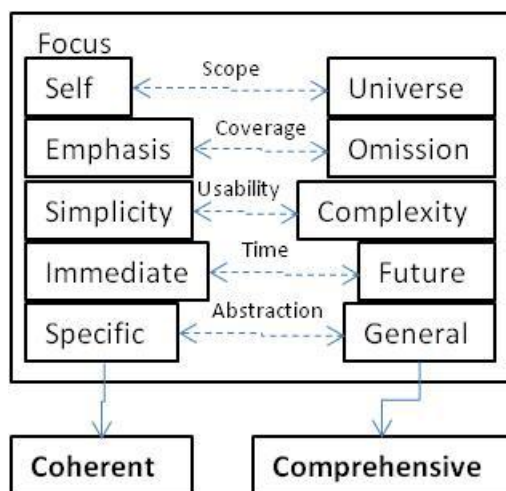
See **09 Humanism – Bad and Good**, Version 1, date 02/04/2019 <https://humanistman.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/09-Humanism-Bad-and-Good.pdf>

Then we **Shift Emphasis** to try to define things which help us avoid Bad.



The idea of shifting Emphasis I have called **Shifting Focus** - so instead of spending energy exploring and defining Bad - we tend to take it for granted and tend to concentrate on things which are Not Bad - that help avoid death.

**Emphasis** is paired with **Omission** on my **FOCUS model** as part of the **Coverage continuum**.

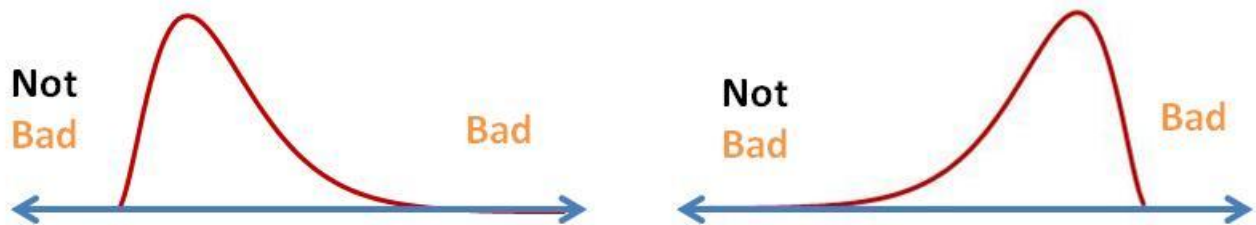


To explore more about Focus see See **Corruption – Extremists** <https://humanistman.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Corruption-Extremists-Feedback.pdf>

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### The Definite Not Bad Asserted

What we have now is a kind of shift of Emphasis in two directions, in one Direction on the continuum we are very clear about avoiding the general idea of Bad and on the other end of the same continuum we are trying to learn more about what is Bad so we can avoid them. So we end up with a kind simultaneous double focus.



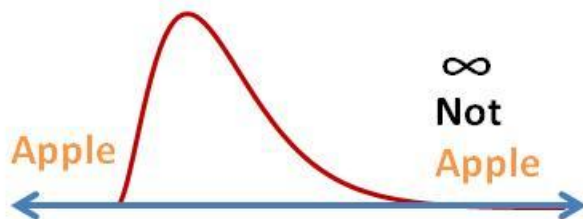
### The Infinite Not of Apple

Another way of seeing this is to re-visit the notion of the **Declared is** - the thing asserted.

If I was to declare a thing like Apple then it is not immediately obvious what the opposite of Apple is.

**Question:** What is Not an Apple?

**Answer:** Infinitely everything which is not an Apple.



So we might definitely know what we think an Apple is but we also seem to need to declare a definite thing which is Not an Apple at the same time. So we end up with two declared continuums which varying amounts of information on what an Apple is and what is Not an Apple.

Most people have trouble understanding this but the consequences are that instead of one continuum you have **Two Distinct continuums** with various amounts of detail and focus.

What is not obvious and difficult to understand is where the infinities are.

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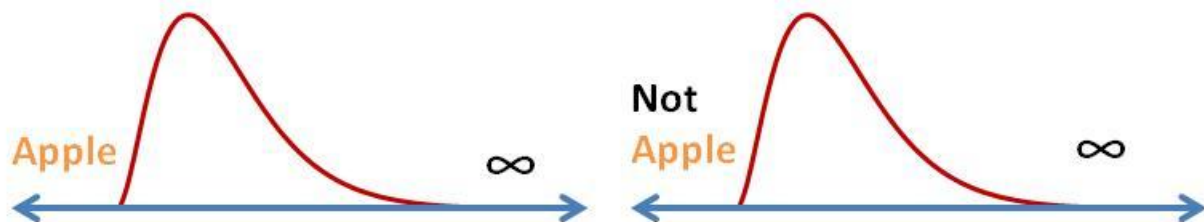
### A Definite Not becomes a Definite Is Asserted

The reason I introduced the Apple example was to emphasize the idea of the **Infinite Not**, the Infinite not of the thing asserted. Infinitely many things and discussion, definitions and measurements are completely unrelated to any discussion about the thing asserted.

Another way of seeing this is having two questions to focus on.

**Question:** What is Definitely an Apple?

**Question:** What is Definitely Not an Apple?



So what is happening is that we are asserting and emphasizing two different things.

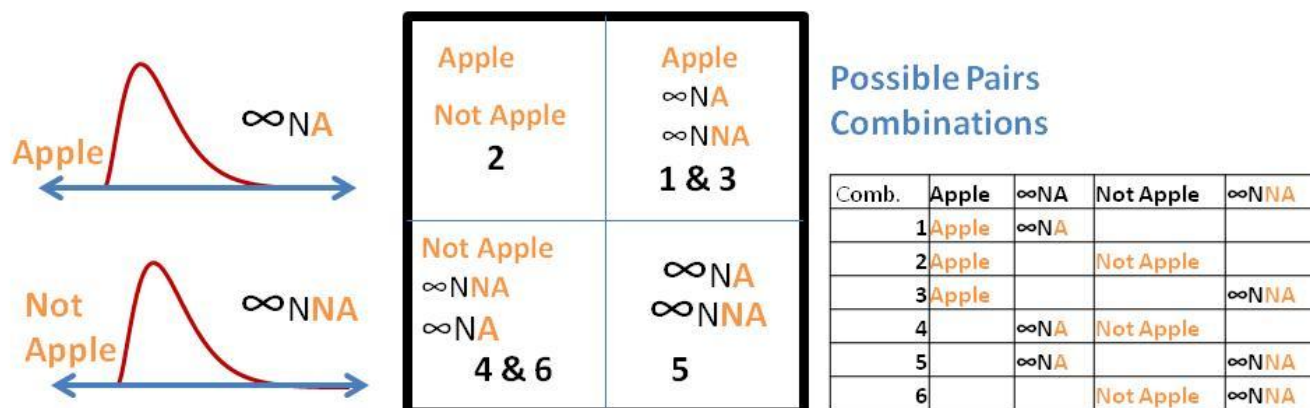
The **Definite Not becomes a thing asserted on its own**. The Reason this is important is when we come to the 4 Box model we now have 4 things related to this discussion

1. Definite Asserted Apple
2. Infinite Not of Definite Asserted Apple
3. Definite Asserted Not Apple
4. Infinite Not of Definite Asserted Not Apple

### The Four Box Model for an Asserted Thing and Its Asserted not

There are 6 possible pair combinations of the continuums if we turn them into binary sets. Why are there only 4 boxes? It seems like the infinities are being hidden and grouped together.

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### A Four Box Model is a Matrix - Matrices Hide Combinations

I am going to use two very strong binary pairs which humans use. If you asked many people whether these are strong opposites they would tend to agree **without much thinking**. These are habitually hard wired in most humans.

**Question:** What is the opposite of Good?

**Answer:** Bad.

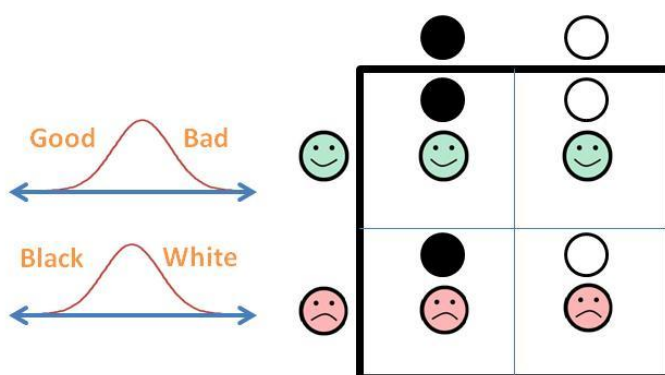
**Question:** What is the Opposite of Bad?

**Answer:** Good.

**Question:** What is something when it is Not Bad?

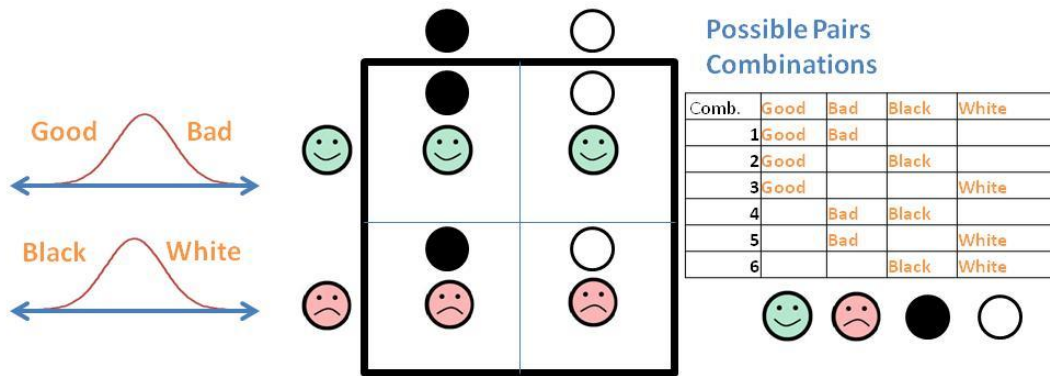
**Answer:** Good.

We can see we only get 4 Pair combinations if we arrange them as a 4 Box model. Two pair combinations are missing - but which ones?



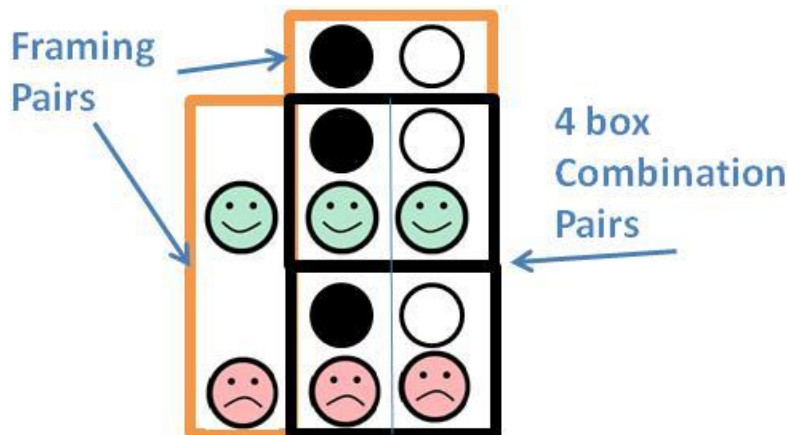
We are missing the **initial pairs** of Good and Bad and Black and White. This means the 4 box Model must **always be seen in the context of the pairs you started with**, one along the top of the 4 Box model and the other along the side of the 4 Box Model.

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### Assuming the Initial Pairs

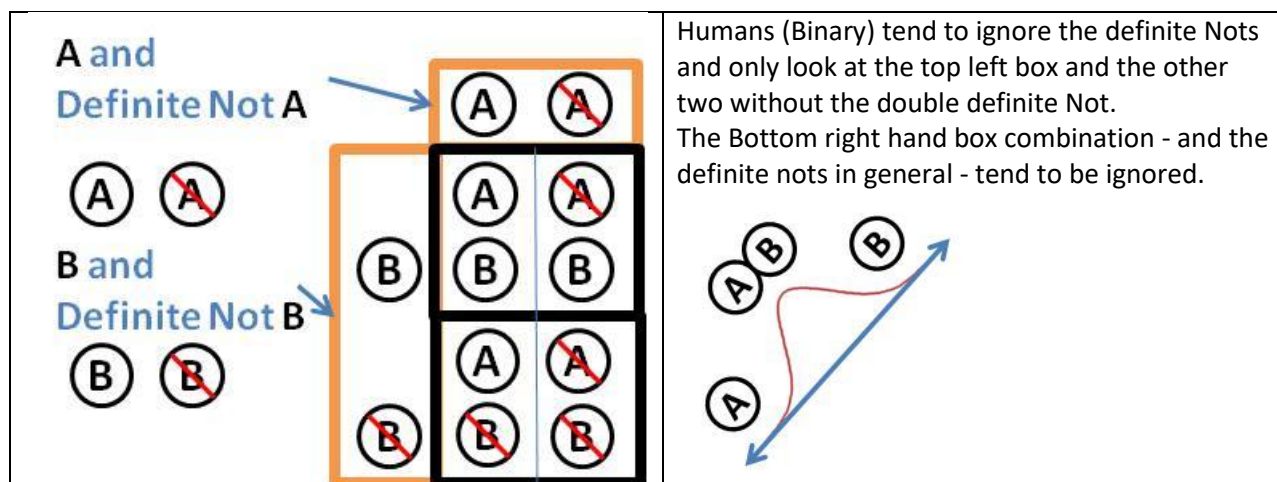
The Initial pairs in the 4 Box Model are the **Framing Pairs**. These pairs **frame the combinations** and therefore are special. You could use any pairs to Frame something - the choice of these is your initial assumptions and assumed **framing bias**. The **4 pair combinations inside the box are of equal meaning** - no one box within the 4 box model means more than any other box - therefore any choice to ignore one combination or emphasize another is a **bias**. .e.g. in this example - Why ignore Bad White combinations?



### Giving Meaning to the Definite Not

I assert that **coherent** and **comprehensive analysis** (see Focus Model) for a Thing asserted requires the Definite not of the thing asserted. In other words - we carry around in our minds and definitions some idea of the measurement, definition and characteristics of a thing asserted **AND** the Definition Not of the thing asserted. These exist as general pairs in our schemas but we tend to ignore the definite not until some time as we find a new challenge to our definition of the thing asserted usually by discussion with other humans or reading, exploring and learning.

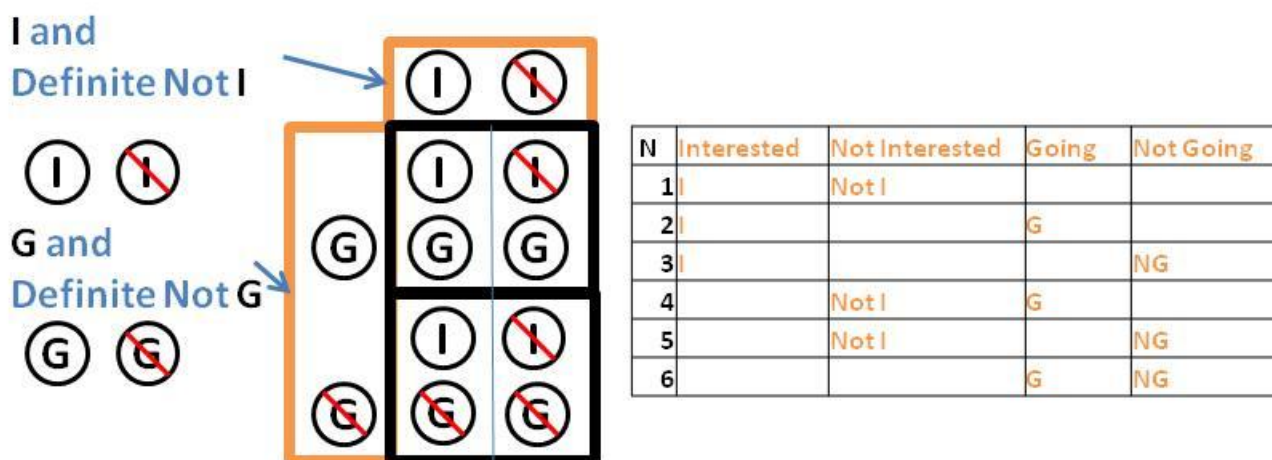
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### Interested or Not - Going or Not

Are you **Interested (I)** in going with me to the Art Gallery? - Are you **going (G)** with me?

This is a **clear example** of how **all binary pair combinations are important**.



All possible binary pair combinations occur and in this example the bottom right Box stands out - I am **Not Interested** and I am **Not Going**. What is also interesting is that **this answer** is most often associated with **feelings** - usually and disappointment and anger - usually by binary people who **frame things in a way** where they expect the answer to be the Top left Box - Yes I am Interested and I will go with you.

This is the common framing technique that binaries use and they get upset if the answer is not what they want. They assert things and then place the asserted thing in the left top box combinations and **demonize** the double not.

For example during the recent hysterical (UN WHO) **Covid 19 virus pandemic** people **asserted** that the Vaccine was Effective and that **everyone needed** to be vaccinated. So if any individual questioned the **assertion** of the Vaccine being effective they were attacked and demonized. People who refused the



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vaccine were also attacked and demonized and if you did both you were labeled as a threat to society and demonized by the mob and in many cases arrested, attacked by police and even shot with rubber bullets in Melbourne by police or had your head smashed into the ground by Melbourne Police under Victorian Premier Dan Andrews. This was supported and encouraged by ABC, Media, Politicians, Universities, etc - anywhere dominated by binary tribal dim-wits. People lost their jobs for many years and were hounded and attacked by smug idiot mob types for many years. Reminiscent of Religious wars in the middle ages and anywhere where binary tribalism dominates.

See the A/Not A and B/not B example above.

### Interested or Not - Going or Not - Combinations

Are you **Interested** in going with me to the Art Gallery? - Are you **going** with me?

This is a **clear example** of how **there are more than binary pair combinations**.

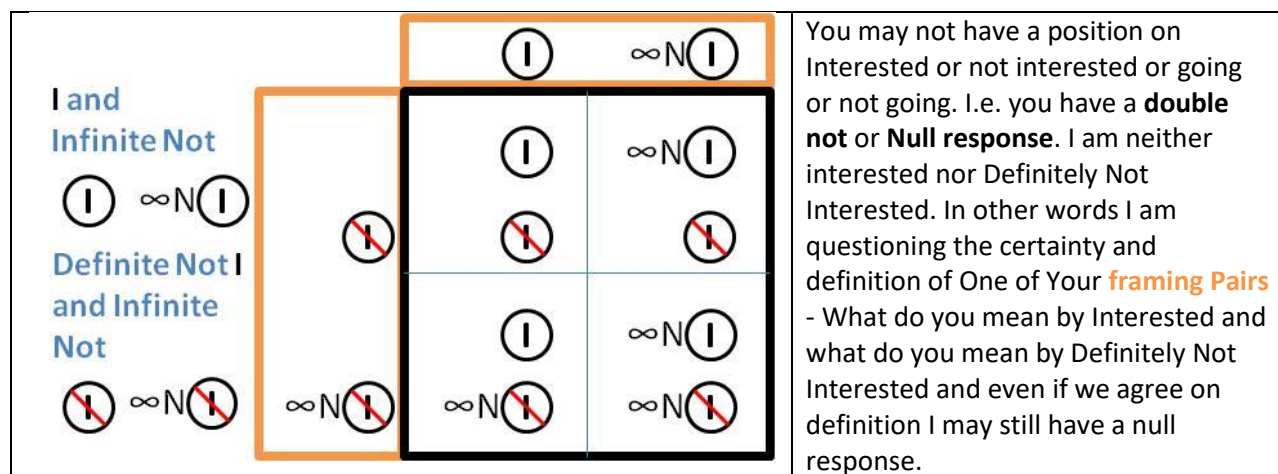
**The 4 box model, as initially framed, is not enough to understand the possibilities.**

**There are 16 possible combinations.** We have now included the **null response**, 1,3 and 4 combinations. The 6 pairs are still there but we now have more combinations. Each of these have a meaning.

n	Interested	Not Interested	Going	Not Going
1				
2	Y			
3		Y		
4			Y	
5				Y
6	Y	Y		
7	Y		Y	
8	Y			Y
9		Y	Y	
10		Y		Y
11			Y	Y
12	Y	Y	Y	
13	Y	Y		Y
14		Y	Y	Y
15	Y		Y	Y
16	Y	Y	Y	Y



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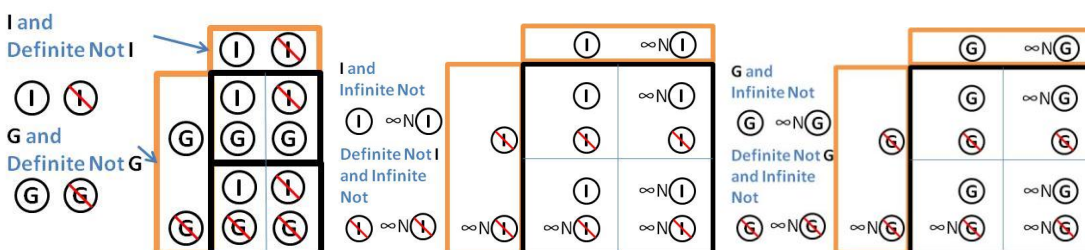


All the other positions are possible - even if they seem incoherent. Both going and not going overlap (Something in the middle) of definitions of Going and Not Going - maybe partially or in some way not covered by your understanding Going and Definitely Not Going. You may be interested, not interested have null interest and mix of both.

### 3 4 Box Models - 3 \* 16 Combinations

In general the discussions about things are far more complex than people can understand or even begin to frame and they get confused, frustrated and sometimes very angry during communication and miscommunication about things.

Even in a Simple binary discussion of binary choices of two different things - there are far many more binary possibilities than people can see. Most people are too Fat, Dumb and Lazy to spend the time exploring and communicating about the issue and understanding the various infinities and null responses - the double nots. Each of the three boxes has 16 possible binary combinations not limited to the pairs you see in the boxes. i.e. 18 pairs (including **framing pairs**) but 48 binary combinations.



### Extension - Quote from John Locke

'4. "What is, is;" and, "It is impossible for the same thing to be, and not to be," not universally assented to. - But, which is worse, this argument of universal consent, which is made use of to prove innate principles, seems to me a demonstration that there are none such; because there are none to which all mankind give an universal assent. I shall begin with the speculative, and instance in those magnified principles of demonstration: "Whatsoever is, is;" and "It is impossible for the same thing to be, and not

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*to be," which, of all others, I think, have the most allowed title to innate. These have so settled a reputation of maxims universally received that it will, no doubt, be thought strange if any one should seem to question it. But yet I take liberty to say, that these propositions are so far from having an universal assent, that there are a great part of mankind to whom they are not so much as known.'* -

Author(**John Locke**) Year[1689] Age(57) Source\_Document(**An Essay concerning Human Understanding** CHAPTER II - NO INNATE PRINCIPLES IN THE MIND) Keyword(Understanding, Learning, Thinking Development Individual) <https://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/en/locke.htm>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An\\_Essay\\_Concerning\\_Human\\_Understanding](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An_Essay_Concerning_Human_Understanding)

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