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Faith Bible Church

<http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

September 8, 2011

**Building Mental Muscle & Growing the Mind through Logic Exercises:
Lesson 4a – The Three Acts of the Mind (Outline of all of Logic)**

<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/logic4a>

A. Outline of all logic: the three acts of the mind: simple apprehension, judging, and reasoning.

1. #1: “Simple apprehension” is a technical term. It means basically “conceiving,” “understanding,” or “comprehending” one object of thought, one concept, such a ‘mortal’ or ‘man’ or ‘triangle’ or ‘triangle with unequal angles.’
2. #2: “Judging” is more complex than simple apprehension. Instead of just thinking one concept, like ‘man,’ it relates two concepts, like “man” and “mortal,” to each other by predicating one term (the predicate) of the other (the subject) in judgment that, e.g., “Man is mortal” or “Man is not a triangle.”
3. #3: “Reasoning” is when one moves from judging to conclusions. As judging is more complex than simple apprehension, reasoning is more complex than judging. As judging moves from one act of simple apprehension (the subject) to another (the predicate), reasoning moves from two or more judgments (the premises, or assumptions) to another (the conclusion) in arguing that if the premises are true, then the conclusion must be true. For example, “All men are mortal, and I am a man, therefore, I am mortal,” or “A man is not a triangle, and that is a triangle, therefore that is not a man.”

B. The mental products produced in the mind by the three acts of the mind are:

1. Concepts (the products of conceiving)
2. Judgments (the products of judging)
3. Arguments (the products of reasoning, or arguing)

C. These three mental entities (concepts, judgments, and arguments) are expressed in logic as:

1. Terms. A term has no structural parts. It is basic unit of meaning, like the number one in math.
2. Propositions. A proposition has two structural parts: the subject term and the predicate term. The subject term is what you are talking about. The predicate term is what you say about the subject. The word “subject” and “predicate” mean the same thing in logic as in grammar.
3. Arguments (the most usual form of which is the syllogism). An argument has two structural parts: the premises and the conclusion. The premises are the propositions that are assumed. They are the reasons or the evidence for the conclusion. The conclusion is the proposition that you are trying to prove.

D. They are expressed in language as:

1. Words or phrases (less than a complete sentence)
2. Declarative sentences. (Logic does not deal with interrogative sentences, imperative sentences, exclamatory sentences.) Non-declarative sentences are not propositions.
3. Paragraphs, or at least two or more declarative sentences connected by a word like “therefore” which indicates an argument.

E. Examples:

1. “Man”
2. “Socrates is a man.”
3. “All men are mortal, and Socrates is a man, therefore Socrates is mortal.”

- F. The three logical entities answer three different questions, the three most fundamental questions we can ask about anything:
1. A term answers the question what it is: "What are we talking about?" **"Man."**
 2. A proposition answers the question whether it is: "What are we saying about it"? **"That man is mortal."**
 3. An argument answers the question why it is. The conclusion is the proposition that you are trying to prove: Why is it mortal?" **Because man is an animal, and all animals are mortal, therefore man is mortal.**
- G. Each of the three acts of the mind are either logically good or logically bad.
1. Terms are either clear or unclear (ambiguous)
 - a. Terms are never true or false in themselves; the propositions they are in are true or false.
 - b. Terms are never valid or invalid. Only arguments are valid or invalid. Terms are only clear or unclear.
 - c. Terms are only either clear or unclear.
 2. Propositions are either true or false.
 - a. Propositions are never clear or unclear; the terms in them are clear or unclear.
 - b. Propositions are never valid or invalid in themselves; the arguments they are parts of are either valid or invalid.
 - c. Propositions are only either true or false.
 3. Arguments are either valid or invalid.
 - a. Arguments are never clear or unclear; each of the terms in an argument is clear or unclear.
 - b. Arguments are never true or false. Each of the propositions in an argument is true or false.
 - c. Arguments are only either valid or invalid.

- H. Developing critical thinking skills with these three acts of the mind. Because there are three acts of the mind and three corresponding logical entities (terms, propositions, and arguments), there are three basic questions we should habitually ask in each of the four basic language arts of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The more we habitually ask these three questions, of ourselves (when speaking or writing) and of others (when listening or reading), the more critical and logical our thinking is. The questions are:
1. What do you mean? (Define your terms.)
 2. What's the point? (What's your conclusion?)
 3. Why? (Prove it.)
- I. When you want to make an unanswerable argument, you must be sure of three things:.
1. Be sure your terms are clear.
 2. Be sure your premises are true.
 3. Be sure your logic is valid.
- J. If you want to answer someone else's argument, you must find in it one of the three following errors?
1. A term used ambiguously.
 2. A false premise.
 3. A logical fallacy (an invalid argument, a conclusion that does not necessarily follow from the premises)

Logic: the Three Acts of the Mind = OUTLINE FOR ALL OF LOGIC



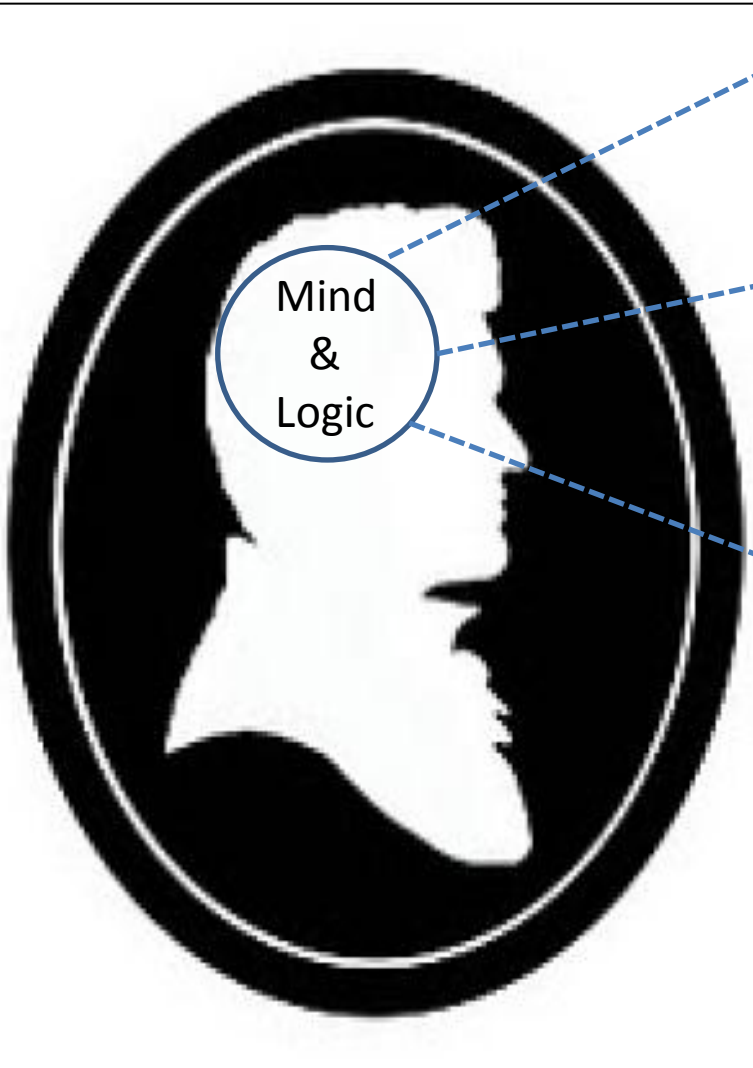
Mind
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Logic

1st, Simple apprehension: this is conceiving one object of thought, one concept, such as mortal or man or triangle or triangle with unequal angles.

2nd, Judging: more complex than simple apprehension. Instead of thinking one concept like man, it relates two concepts, like man and mortal to each other by predicating one term (the predicate) of the other (the subject) in judgment that, e.g., Man is mortal or Man is not a triangle.

3rd, Reasoning: More complex than the above. As judging goes from one act of simple apprehension (the subject) to another (predicate), reasoning moves from two or more judgments (the premises, or assumptions) to another (conclusion) in arguing if the premises are true, then the conclusion must be true. All men are mortal, and I am a man, therefore I am mortal.

Logic: the Three Acts of the Mind—**OUTLINE FOR ALL OF LOGIC**



1st, Simple apprehension:

- E.g., Concepts, terms, words.

2nd, Judging:

- E.g., Propositions, declarative sentences.

3rd, Reasoning:

- E.g., Paragraphs, or at least two or more declarative sentences connected by a word like “therefore” which indicates an argument.

Logic: the Three Acts of the Mind—**OUTLINE FOR ALL OF LOGIC**



Mind
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1st, Simple apprehension:

- E.g., Concepts, terms, words.
- No structural parts. It is a basic unit of meaning.

2nd, Judging:

- E.g., Propositions, declarative sentences.
- 2 structural parts: the subject term and the predicate term. The subject term is what you are talking about. The predicate term is what you say about the subject.

3rd, Reasoning:

- E.g., Paragraphs, or at least two or more declarative sentences with word like “therefore” which indicates an argument.
- 2 structural parts: the premises and the conclusion. The premises are the propositions that are assumed. They are the reasons or evidence for the conclusions. The conclusion is the proposition that you are trying to prove.

Logic: the Three Acts of the Mind—**OUTLINE FOR ALL OF LOGIC**



Mind
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1st, Simple apprehension:

- Terms are never true or false in themselves (like propositions); never valid or invalid (like arguments); they are only clear or unclear.

2nd, Judging:

- Propositions are never valid or invalid in themselves (like arguments)
- They are only true or false.

3rd, Reasoning:

- Arguments are never clear or unclear (only terms in argument); never true or false (only proposition in argument)
- Arguments are only valid or non-valid.

Logic: the Three Acts of the Mind—**OUTLINE FOR ALL OF LOGIC**

1st, Simple apprehension:

- “What it is”.

2nd, Judging:

- “Whether it is.”

3rd, Reasoning:

- “Why it is.”



Mind
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Logic

Quiz on the 3 Acts of the Mind

True or False

1. The issue in an argument is whether it is true or false.
2. The issue in a proposition is whether it is ambiguous or clear.
3. The issue in a term is whether it is valid or invalid.
4. Interrogative questions, imperative sentences, and exclamation sentences are propositions.
5. A term can be expressed in one word or an entire phrase.
6. “Man” is a concept.
7. “Socrates is a man” is a proposition.
8. “All men are mortal, and Socrates is a man, therefore Socrates is mortal” is an argument.
9. “Triangle with unequal angles” is a term.
10. In a proposition the subject term is what you are talking about. The predicate term is what you say about the subject.