

## *Intuition as a Way of Knowing*

Let us begin as always: well, after the 30 circle test

What is your understanding of intuition?

<http://www.problemsolving.net/ingredient12.html>

<http://youtu.be/PpoP8lDelFs>

Expand  $2(x + y)$

The image shows a handwritten expansion of the expression  $2(x + y)$ . The expression is written four times, stacked vertically and shifted to the right in each successive line, creating a staircase effect. The top line is  $2(x+y)$ , the second line is  $2(x+y)$ , the third line is  $2(x+y)$ , and the bottom line is  $2(x+y)$ . The handwriting is in black ink on a white background.



**A college class was told they had to write a short story in as few words as possible. The instructions were: The short story had to contain the following three things:**

- (1) Religion**
- (2) Sexuality**
- (3) Mystery**

**Below is the only A+ short story in the entire class.**

**"Good God, I'm pregnant; I wonder who did it."**

What are some incidents you can recall that you chalk up to intuition?

Have you ever:

A bat and a ball together cost 1.10; the bat costs one dollar more than the ball; how much does the ball cost?

A woman had two sons who were born at the same hour on the same day but they are not twins. Is this possible?

Picked up the phone to call someone to discover that person already on the line

Hummed the words of a song and turned on the radio and the song is there

Do you consider yourself intuitive? Why or not?

Intuition is:

knowledge from within  
Direct knowledge without relying on reason  
A feeling/something you notice

Is some knowledge innate/instinctive?

Can we gain knowledge without knowing *how/that* we know?

For example, consider language acquisition: within the context of the larger language community; we learn it without being taught; how, then is it acquired?

For example, consider our moral sense of right and wrong (what we will study in the area of knowledge called ethics); is our sense of right and wrong intuitive?

Does intuition exist?

***Intuition:***

Is the rapid interpretation of all tense of time: past, present, future

Empiricism emerges from past;  
Present is the split second decision making in real time  
Future is the reason why, the potential outcome

All processed ***without deliberate intent***

***Thus, we know without knowing how/why we know***

***Intuition and cognitive psychology***

*Cognitive psychology* posits that intuition is **rapid cognition** of the brain; so what is the brain processing?

Sense perception; emotional connections, memories

<http://www.flowpower.com/What%20is%20Synchronicity.htm>

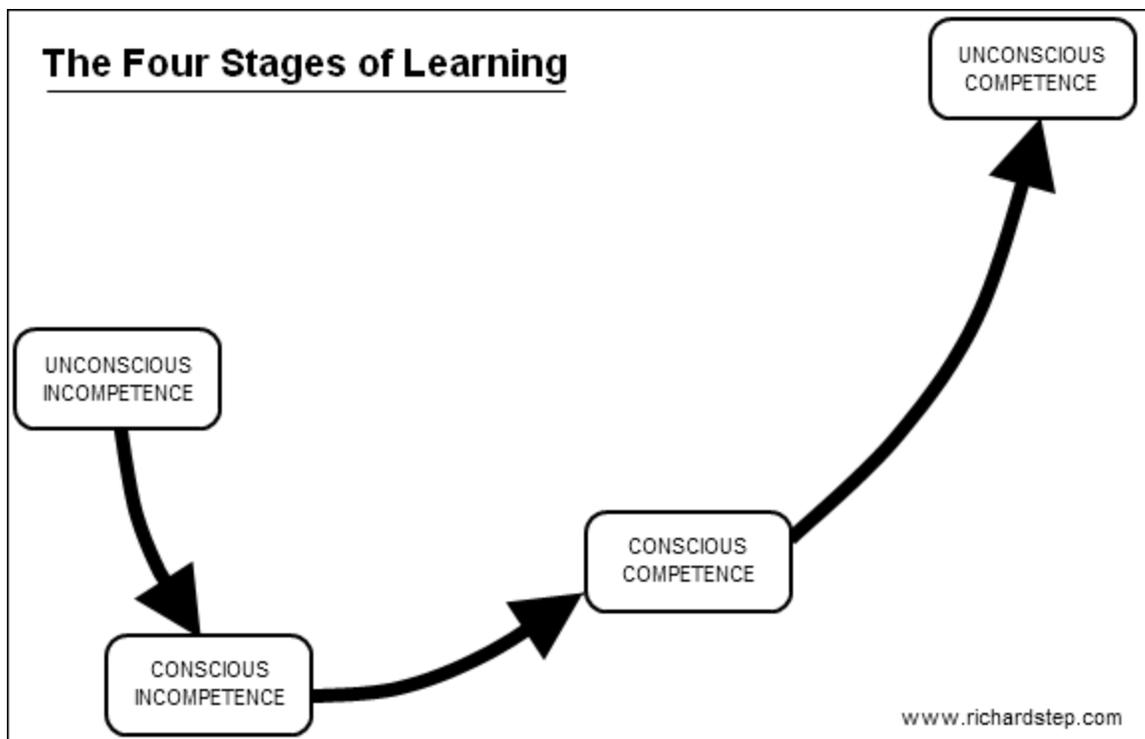
Intuition can be considered the tweets of information; it is a quick version of the world around us.

In a sense, intuition juxtaposes rationalism; rapid conclusion versus the slow process of considered conscious thought.

So...consider some of the characteristics of intuition:

- Unconscious processing
- Applicability within decision making
- Gut level sense of such dichotomies as beauty/ugliness
  - Good /evil
  - Justice/Injustice
- Shortcut to thinking
- Influential cognitive bias

When considering the unconscious nature of intuition, return once again to the model of unconscious incompetent - unconscious competent



Is it just that these have become *skills of automaticity* stored in our *procedural memory*; then, is intuition nothing more than pre-conscious processing?

### **Intuition and decision making:**

“gut instincts”: deciding quickly without undo consideration

Which type of decision making is the better option:

Rationalism (to slow process decision making based on pros and cons; factoring out the influence of emotions)

OR intuition (that at times, we just KNOW - what we like/dislike; what we deem to be right or wrong for us.)

For example, think of taste (personal preference): how much does intuition come into play with this?

Intuition: innate or acquired?

Intuition may be the fastest, most immediate (primary) method to identify awareness of pattern (fire bell rings, what do we do without thinking?)

Within social context, we tend to rely on our intuitions in terms of judging others.

Ask yourself: are you a good judge of character?

The role of intuition in our lives can be traced back:

Those with good instincts are likely to survive longer:

[http://youtu.be/Fg\\_YS8rLwMg](http://youtu.be/Fg_YS8rLwMg)

Further, the greater the expertise (UC) the more reliable the intuition, particularly in more demanding, risky situations

However, intuition is often based on **domain specific expertise**; it does not cross over (someone adept at chess might make a terrible carpenter)

**Intuition and moral judgments:** that we tend to make gut moral decisions and justify them later

**Intuition and error:** (the moon-walking bear) Intuition is *at best* a rough judgment and patterns; it is *swift*, leading to *instant inferences*, *pattern seeking*, *unconscious processing of practical skills*, creating *rapid meaning making* and can lead us make *mistakes*.

Finally: last point to consider concerning intuition is *order*:

*Which comes first – belief or justification*

We have to factor in people and people are subjective and biased and emotional and affected by a number of factors (which we can break down or simply categorize as other people). Often we form our beliefs *first* and then develop our *explanations* for them.

So, in order to enable our ability to be intuitive to actively and actually work for us, keep the following five points in mind:

1. Recognize cognitive biases
2. Activate rational thinking (think of it as the slow food movement as opposed to drive thru)
3. Consider counterclaims (bring in alternate perspectives)
4. Think about how people think and come to conclusions
5. At times, trust your intuition; it does have value.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLC8snGL0QY>

<http://www.problemsolving.net/ingredient12.html>