I'm not a bot

Ability to think about and use concepts to deal adequately with a subject This article is about the psychological process. For other uses, see Understanding (disambiguation). "Understand" redirects here. For other uses, see Understand (disambiguation). Understanding is a cognitive process related to an abstract or physical object, such as a person, situation, or message whereby one is able to use concepts to model that object. Understanding is a relation between the knower and an object of understanding. Understanding implies abilities and dispositions with respect to an object of knowledge that are sufficient to support intelligent behavior.[1] Understanding is often, though not always, related to learning concepts, and sometimes also the theory or theories associated with those concepts. However, a person may have a good ability to predict the behavior of an object, animal or system—and therefore may, in some sense, understand it—without necessarily being familiar with the concepts or theories associated with that object, animal, or system in their culture. They may have developed their own distinct concepts and theories, which may be equivalent, better or worse than the recognized standard concepts and theories of their culture. Thus, understanding is correlated with the ability to make inferences. Understanding and knowledge are both words without unified definitions.[2][3] Ludwig Wittgenstein looked past a definition of knowledge or understanding and looked at how the words were used in natural language, identifying relevant features in context.[4] It has been suggested that knowledge alone has little value whereas knowing something in context is understanding,[5] which has much higher relative value but it has also been suggested that a state short of knowledge can be termed understanding.[6][7] Someone's understanding can come from perceived causes [8] or non causal sources,[9] suggesting knowledge being a pillar of where understanding comes from.[10] We can have understanding while lacking corresponding knowledge and have knowledge while lacking the corresponding understanding.[11] Even with knowledge, relevant distinctions or correct conclusion about similar cases may not be made,[12][13] suggesting more information about the context would be required, which alludes to different degrees of understanding depending on the context.[10] To understand something implies abilities and dispositions with respect to an object of knowledge that are sufficient to support intelligent behavior.[14] Understanding could therefore be less demanding than knowledge, because it seems that someone can have understanding of a subject even though they might have been mistaken about that subject. But it is more demanding in that it requires that the internal connections among ones' beliefs actually be "seen" or "grasped" by the person doing the understanding when found at a deeper level.[10] Explanatory realism and the propositional model suggests understanding comes from causal propositions [15] but, it has been argued that knowing how the cause might bring an effect is understanding.[16] As understanding is not directed towards a discrete proposition, but involves grasping relations of parts to other parts and perhaps the relations of part to wholes.[17] The relationships grasped help understanding, but the relationships are not always causal.[18] So understanding could therefore be expressed by knowledge of dependencies.[16] Gregory Chaitin propounds a view that comprehension is a kind of data compression.[19] In his 2006 essay "The Limits of Reason", he argues that understanding something means being able to figure out a simple set of rules that explains it. For example, we understand why day and night exist because we have a simple model—the rotation of the earth—that explains a tremendous amount of data—changes in brightness, temperature, and atmospheric composition of the earth. We have compressed a large amount of information by using a simple model that predicts it. Similarly, we understand the number 0.33333... by thinking of it as one-third. The first way of representing the number requires five concepts ("0", "decimal point", "3", "infinity", "infinity of 3"); but the second way can produce all the data of the first representation, but uses only three concepts ("1", "division", "3"). Chaitin argues that comprehension is this ability to compress data. This perspective on comprehension forms the foundation of some models of intelligent agents, as in Nello Cristianini's book "The Shortcut", where it is used to explain that machines can understand the world in fundamentally non-human ways.[20] ^ Bereiter, Carl. 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Retrieved from " noun (8)adjective (1)View synonyms for understandingmental process of a person who comprehends; comprehension; personal interpretation.My understanding of the word does not agree with yours.intellectual faculties; intelligence; mind.superior power of discernment; enlightened intelligence.With her keen understanding she should have become a leader.knowledge of or familiarity with a particular thing; skill in dealing with or handling something.an understanding of accounting practice.a state of cooperative or mutually tolerant relations between people.To him, understanding and goodwill were the supreme virtues.a mutual agreement, especially of a private, unannounced, or tacit kind.They had an understanding about who would do the dishes.an agreement regulating joint activity or settling differences, often informal or preliminary in character.After hours of negotiation, no understanding on a new contract was reached.Philosophy.the power of abstract thought; logical power.Kantianism., the mental faculty resolving the sensory manifold into the transcendental unity of apperception.characterized by understanding; prompted by, based on, or demonstrating comprehension, intelligence, discernment, empathy, or the like.an understanding attitude.the ability to learn, judge, make decisions, etc; intelligence or sensepersonal opinion or interpretation of a subjectmy understanding of your predicamenta mutual agreement or compact, esp an informal or private onean unofficial engagement to be marriedarchaic, philosophy the mind, esp the faculty of reasonwith the condition that; providing“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012sympathetic, tolerant, or wise towards peoplepossessing judgment and intelligence“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012understandingly adverbnonunderstanding adjectivenonunderstandingly adverbself-understanding nounExamples are provided to illustrate real-world usage of words in context. Any opinions expressed do not reflect the views of Dictionary.com.Their ability to survive and spread in the aftermath of the dinosaur extinction makes them a key group for understanding how reptiles adapted during a period of dramatic environmental change.Read more on Science DailyEast Riding of Yorkshire Council said the course was designed to help residents gain a better understanding of their finances and the support available to improve financial literacy.This has raised new scientific interest in understanding whether certain nutrients might influence the body's defense system.Read more on Science DailyWhile interactions were limited for health reasons, this partnership ensured that the research reflected community priorities and contributed to a fuller understanding of the living heritage of the region.Read more on Science Daily"The learnings from this will help us work out the countermeasures to be adopted to protect satellites in near space. They will also help us gain a better understanding of near-Earth space," he adds.understandableunderstateBrowse#aabbccddeeffgghhiijjkkllmmnnooppqqrrsstuuvvwwxxyyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day!© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC Also found in: Thesaurus, Medical, Legal, Financial, Idioms, Encyclopedia, Wikipedia. (ŭn′dər-stăn′dĭng)n.1. a. The ability by which one understands; intelligence: concepts that are beyond the understanding of a child.b. The quality or condition of one who understands; comprehension: Do you have much understanding of calculus? See Synonyms at reason.2. Individual or specified judgment or outlook; opinion: In my understanding, this is a good plan.3. A usually implicit agreement between two or more people or groups: an understanding between neighbors over late-night noise.4. A disposition to appreciate or share the feelings and thoughts of others; sympathy: Can't you show some understanding for the poor child?adj. Characterized by or having good sense or compassion: an understanding teacher.American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. (ˌʌndəˈstændɪŋ) n1. the ability to learn, judge, make decisions, etc; intelligence or sense2. personal opinion or interpretation of a subject: my understanding of your predicament. 3. a mutual agreement or compact, esp an informal or private one4. chiefly Brit an unofficial engagement to be married5. (Philosophy) philosophy archaic the mind, esp the faculty of reason6. on the understanding that with the condition that; providingadj7. sympathetic, tolerant, or wise towards people8. possessing judgment and intelligenceCollins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014 (ˌʌn dər′stæn dɪŋ) n. 1. the mental process of a person who understands; comprehension; personal interpretation. 2. intellectual faculties; intelligence. 3. knowledge of or familiarity with a particular thing. 4. a state of cooperation between people, nations, factions, etc. adj. 6. characterized by comprehension, empathy, or the like. Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, © 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved.See also knowledge; learning; perception; philosophy; thinking. an impaired state of the power of speech or of the ability to comprehend language, caused by injury to the brain.the power of entering into another’s personality and imaginatively experiencing his feelings. — empathie, adj.an additional explanation; the use of more words to clarify further. — epexegetic, epexegetical, adj.the science of intuition and reason as phenomena of the mind. — noological, adj.-Ologies & -Isms. Copyright 2008 The Gale Group, Inc. All rights reserved. – understanding1. 'comprehension'Both comprehension and understanding can be used to talk about someone's ability to understand something.He noted Bond's apparent lack of comprehension.The problems of solar navigation seem beyond comprehension.A very narrow subject would have become too highly technical for general understanding.2. 'understanding'If you have an understanding of something, you have some knowledge of it, or you know how it works or what it means.The past decade has seen huge advances in our general understanding of how the ear works.The job requires an understanding of Spanish.You cannot use comprehension with this meaning.Understanding has another meaning. If there is understanding between people, they are friendly towards each other and trust each other.What we need is greater understanding between management and workers.Collins COBUILD English Usage © HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 2004, 2011, 2012 Noun1.understanding - the cognitive condition of someone who understands; "he has virtually no understanding of social cause and effect"discernment, savvy, apprehensionknowing - a clear and certain mental apprehensioncomprehension - an ability to understand the meaning or importance of something (or the knowledge acquired as a result); "how you can do that is beyond my comprehension"; "he was famous for his comprehension of American literature"self-knowledge - an understanding of yourself and your goals and abilitiessmattering - a slight or superficial understanding of a subjectappreciation, grasp, hold - understanding of the nature or meaning or quality or magnitude of something; "he has a good grasp of accounting practices"grasping - understanding with difficulty; "the lecture was beyond his most strenuous graspings"hindsight - understanding the nature of an event after it has happened; "hindsight is always better than foresight"realization, realisation, recognition - coming to understand something clearly and distinctly; "a growing realization of the risk involved"; "a sudden recognition of the problem he faced"; "increasing recognition that diabetes frequently coexists with other chronic diseases"2.understanding - the statement (oral or written) of an exchange of promises; "they had an agreement that they would not interfere in each other's business"; "there was an understanding between management and the workers"fair-trade agreement - an agreement (illegal in the United States) between the manufacturer of a trademarked item of merchandise and its retail distributors to sell the item at a price at or above the price set by the manufacturercovenant - (Bible) an agreement between God and his people in which God makes certain promises and requires certain behavior from them in returnunilateral contract - a one-sided agreement whereby you promise to do (or refrain from doing) something in return for a performance (not a promise)sales agreement, sale - an agreement (or contract) in which property is transferred from the seller (vendor) to the buyer (vendee) for a fixed price in money (paid or agreed to be paid by the buyer); "the salesman faxed the sales agreement to his home office"statement - a message that is stated or declared; a communication (oral or written) setting forth particulars or facts etc; "according to his statement he was in London on that day"term, condition - (usually plural) a statement of what is required as part of an agreement; "the contract set out the conditions of the lease"; "the terms of the treaty were generous"bargain, deal - an agreement between parties (usually arrived at after discussion) fixing obligations of each; "he made a bargain with the devil"; "the rose to prominence through a series of shady deals"working agreement - an informal agreement to work togethersubmission - an agreement between parties in a dispute to abide by the decision of an arbiteroral contract - an agreement that is not in writing and is not signed by the parties but is a real existing contract that lacks only the formal requirement of a memorandum to render it enforceable in litigationreservation - the written record or promise of an arrangement by which accommodations are secured in advancesettlement - a conclusive resolution of a matter and disposition of itsuicide pact - an agreement by two or more people to commit suicide together at a given place and time; "the two lovers killed themselves in a suicide pact"3.understanding - an inclination to support or be loyal to or to agree with an opinion; "his sympathies were always with the underdog"; "I knew I could count on his understanding"inclination, tendency, disposition - an attitude of mind especially one that favors one alternative over others; "he had an inclination to give up too easily"; "a tendency to be too strict"4.understanding - the capacity for rational thought or inference or discrimination; "we are told that man is endowed with reason and capable of distinguishing good from evil"Adj.1.understanding - characterized by understanding based on comprehension and discernment and empathy; "an understanding friend"perceptive - having the ability to perceive or understand; keen in discernment; "a perceptive eye"; "a perceptive observation"Based on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. © 2003-2012 Princeton University, Farlex Inc.noun1. perception, knowledge, grasp, sense, know-how (informal), intelligence, judgment, awareness, appreciation, insight, skill, penetration, mastery, comprehension, familiarity with, discernment, proficiency They have to have a basic understanding of computers. perception ignorance, incomprehension, obtuseness2. sympathy, consideration, sensitivity, love, concern, humanity, affection, warmth, tolerance, goodwill, compassion, kindness, empathy, tenderness, neighbourliness, humanitarianism, fellow feeling, considerateness, kind feeling, kind-heartedness We would like to thank them for their patience and understanding. sympathy insensitivity3. agreement, deal, promise, arrangement, accord, contract, bond, pledge, bargain, pact, compact, concord, gentlemen's agreement We had not set a date but there was an understanding between us. agreement dispute, disagreement4. belief, view, opinion, impression, interpretation, feeling, idea, conclusion, notion, conviction, judgment, assumption, point of view, perception, suspicion, viewpoint, hunch, way of thinking, estimation, supposition, sneaking suspicion, funny feeling It is my understanding that this has been going on for many years.adjective1. sympathetic, kind, compassionate, considerate, kindly, accepting, patient, sensitive, forgiving, discerning, tolerant, responsive, perceptive, forbearing Her boss, who was very understanding, gave her time off. sympathetic insensitive, unsympathetic, inconsiderate, intolerant, unfeeling, strictQuotations"Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will" [Martin Luther King Jr Letter from Birmingham Jail]"The ill and unfit choice of words wonderfully obstructs the understanding" [Francis Bacon Novum Organum]"I shall light a candle of understanding in thine heart, which shall not be put out." Bible: II EsdrasCollins Thesaurus of the English Language – Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition. 2002 © HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002nounadjective The American Heritage® Roget's Thesaurus. Copyright © 2013, 2014 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. مُتَفَهِّمتفاهُمتَفَهُّمتفَهُّم، کارآگاهچاپاجیزهچاپاجیزهچاپاجیز