What is the difference between a concept and a category?

- **Concept**: mental representations
  - Typically stable
  - Related to other concepts
  - Typically described in a single word
  - Way of understanding the world
- **Category**: way of grouping things together on the basis of something
  - Not always stable and can change

What is a basic level category?

- **Basic level**
  - Has its own word
  - Neither too general nor too specific
  - Easy-to-explain commonalities
  - Spontaneous level at which people make “instinctive” categorizations
  - Tends to be used in speaking and reasoning about categories
  - Children learn these categories first
  - Not necessarily fixed: knowledge and context might influence what is basic level

Why do we categorize?

- Categorization lets us make inferences about the world
- Categorization is inductive inference
  - We infer which category an object goes in depending on its features

What is the difference between inductive and deductive inference?

- **Inductive**: reaching a general conclusion based on specific examples
- **Deductive**: reaching specific conclusion about given instance based on general principles

Why is classical theory a poor description of how we define categories?

- **Classical theory**
  - A category is defined in terms of **necessary and sufficient features**
    - Necessary: has to be there
    - Sufficient: all that you need
  - Boundaries of the category are defined by these features
  - This representation is abstract and does not store any info about specific exemplars
- **Criticisms**:
  - Defining features often can’t be found
    - Can often remove any particular feature and some object will still be a category member
      - Cat without tail
  - Non-necessary features affect categorization choices