

Sources of Knowledge: no single source of knowledge is used.

- **The Senses** (Empiricism) - people form a picture of the world around them by seeing, hearing, smelling, feeling, and tasting. I "know" because I see...!
 - Ideas formed in accordance with observed data.
 - Sensory knowledge - immediate and universal (basis for most knowledge)
 - Senses are incomplete and undependable (ill health may distort senses).
 - Instruments aid in sensory perception (not dependable).
 - Sensory knowledge is built upon assumptions that must be accepted by faith in the dependability of our sensory mechanisms. The senses can be replicated for public examination.
- **Revelation** - God's communication concerning His Divine Will (religion). This form of knowledge has the distinct advantage of being an omniscient source of information that is not obtainable through other epistemological methods. TRUTH = Absolute and Uncontaminated.
 - Human interpretation -- causes distortions in truth
 - Must be accepted by faith and cannot be proved or disproved empirically.
- **Authority** - knowledge accepted as true because it comes from experts or has been sanctified over time as tradition
 - Classroom - textbooks, teacher or reference work.
 - Saves time and enhances social and scientific progress
 - As valid as its fundamental assumptions.
- **Reason** - view that reasoning, thought, or logic is the central factor in knowledge (rationalism).
 - The sensations and experiences, which we gain through our senses, are the raw materials of knowledge.
 - Senses = (mind/organized) system = knowledge.
 - May lack relevance to the external world
 - Based on premises.
- **Intuition** - The direct apprehension of knowledge that is not the result of conscious reasoning or of immediate sense perception.
 - Immediate feeling of certainty
 - Sudden flash of insight
 - Personal way of knowing
 - The weakness is that it does not appear safe when used alone.
 - It leaps over the limitations of human experience

Validity of Knowledge: What is true _ may be false later on. How do we differentiate between false/true.

Tests for truth:

- **Correspondence Theory** - a test that uses agreement with "fact" as a standard of judgment. Judgment = facts = True; if not = False. Scientists usually hold this view. Some criticisms are as follows:
 - How can we compare our ideas with reality (we only know experiences)
 - It assumes sense data to be clear and accurate
 - It is inadequate - ideas are not concrete outside human thought
- **Coherence Theory** - states that a judgment is true if it is consistent with other judgments that have previously been accepted as true. (Critics state that false and true systems can be consistent)
- **Pragmatic Theory** - this view states that the test of truth is in its utility, workability, or satisfactory consequences.
 - There is no such thing as static or absolute truth
 - People know only their experiences
 - Rejects coherence and correspondence theories