

STIMULUS CARDS

Stimulus cards can be used to apply Big Little Thinking (BLT) and the Big Little Window (BLW) to a range of topics and problems. Choose and use a card to stimulate thinking through or about the BLT process.



Thinking



- Critical-Creative
- Thinking-Feeling
- Convergent-Divergent
- General-Specific
- Process-Content
- Procedural-Declarative
- Categorise-Creat
- Fixed-Fluid
- Linear-Circular
- Inductive-Deductive

Environment



- Nature-Culture
- Human-Non-Human
- Masculine-Feminine
- Natural-Synthetic
- Technological-Ecological
- Local-Global
- Conserve-Develop
- Life-Death
- Space-Time

Religion



- One-Many
- Immanent-Transcendent
- Masculine-Feminine
- Sacred-Profane
- Heaven-Hell
- Physical-Metaphysical
- Human-Divine
- Natural-Supernatural
- Spirit-Flesh
- Literal-Symbolic
- Good-Evil
- Faith-Reason
- Hope-Despair

Science



- Analytic-Synthetic
- Reductive-Holistic
- Process-Content
- Qualitative-Quantitative
- Empirical-Rational
- Inductive-Deductive
- Cognition-Emotion
- Faith-Reason
- Content-Process
- Doubt-Certainty

Gender



- Masculine-Feminine
- Male-Female
- Self-Other
- Typical-Atypical
- Homogeneous-Heterogeneous
- Active-Passive
- Marriage-Divorce
- Monogamous-Polygamous
- Patriarchal-Matriarchal

Health



- Mind-Body
- Physical-Mental
- Patient-Practitioner
- Traditional-Alternative
- Therapeutic-Pharmacological
- Natural-Synthetic
- Qualitative-Quantitative
- Individual-Social
- Mechanistic-Holistic
- Isolating-Integrative
- Structure-Function

Education



- Formal-Informal
- Transmission-Inquiry
- Student-Teacher
- Nature-Nurture
- Masculine-Feminine
- Standardised-Differentiated
- Theory-Practice
- Public-Private
- Intradisciplinary-Interdisciplinary
- Critical-Creative
- Inclusive-Exclusive

Politics



- Left-Right
- Conservative-Liberal
- Freedom-Control
- Order-Chaos
- Hierarchical-Egalitarian
- Democratic-Autocratic
- Centralised-Decentralised
- Traditional-Progressive
- Individual-Collective

Business & Economics



- Communist-Capitalist
- Competition-Collaboration
- Spend-Save
- Rich-Poor
- Profit-Loss
- Macro-Micro
- Mass-Differentiated
- Ecology-Economy

Law & Order



- Freedom-Control
- Order-Chaos
- Retribution-Rehabilitation
- Freewill-Determinism
- Justice-Mercy
- Public-Private
- Change-Conservation

Time



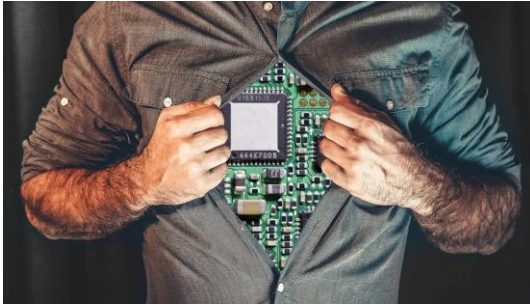
- Past-Future
- Relative-Absolute
- Linear-Cyclical
- Beginning-End
- Long-Short
- Analogue-Digital
- Space-Time

Indigenous Knowledges



- Past-Future
- Natural-Artificial
- Linear-Cyclical
- Masculine-Feminine
- Primitive-Civilised
- Symbolic-Literal
- Mythos-Logos
- Ancient-Modern
- Monistic-Dualistic
- One-Many
- Nature-Culture

Artificial Intelligence



- Natural-Artificial
- Mind-Body
- Material-Spiritual
- Freewill-Determinism
- Ecological-Technological
- Human-Robot
- Freedom-Control
- Analogue-Digital
- Homogenous-Diverse



A problem well-named is a problem half solved.



The world is unhinged. As many people see it, this is true in both sense of the word: the world is out of joint, and it has gone mad. We are wandering aimlessly and confused, arguing for this and against that. But a statement on which most people can agree, beyond all antagonisms and across all continents, is 'I don't understand the world anymore'.

Ulrich Beck



Think left-right up-down either-or neither-nor both-and in-between and beyond.

R. J. Adam



Think left and right and wrong.

R. J. Adam



It is unclear how to achieve policy changes of any kind in a polarized society that has few shared facts and whose civic muscles are atrophying.

Ganesh Sataraman



Culture is more often a source of conflict than of synergy. Cultural differences are a nuisance at best and often a disaster.

Geert Hofstede



Transcending partisanship is going to require what seems beyond the capacities of either side: thinking about the left-right spectrum rather than from it.

Crispin Sartwell



Education which fails to clarify our central convictions is mere training or indulgence. For it is our central convictions that are in disorder, and, as long as the present anti-metaphysical temper persists, the disorder will grow worse.

Ernst. F. Schumacher



Nothing seems more ineffable, more incommunicable, more inimitable, and, therefore, more precious, than the values given body, made body by the transubstantiation achieved by the hidden persuasion of an implicit pedagogy, capable of instilling a whole cosmology, an ethic, a metaphysic, a political philosophy, through injunctions as insignificant as 'stand up straight' or 'don't hold your knife in your left hand'.

Pierre Bourdieu



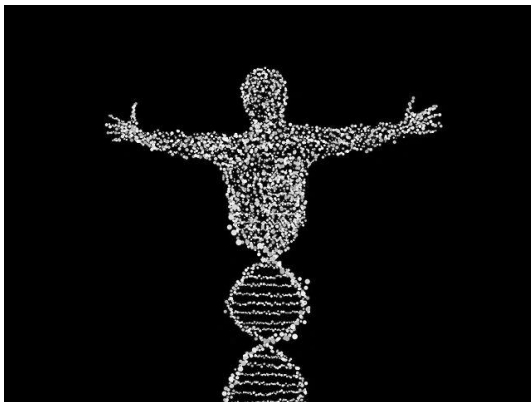
In our most mundane encounters with new information and in our most sophisticated pursuits of knowledge, we are influenced by the beliefs we hold about knowledge and knowing.

B. Hofer



All differences in this world are of degree, and not of kind, because oneness is the secret of everything.

Swami Vivekananda



*The human mind seems to work as a
categorising device . . . a dichotomizing
machine, constantly partitioning the world into
dualities of raw and cooked [nature vs. culture],
male and female, material and spiritual, and so
forth.*

S. J. Gould



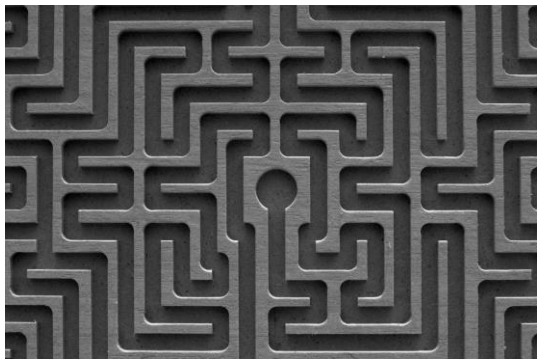
The idea of the pairs of opposites is as old as the world.

C. G. Jung



*Being and non-being produce each other
Difficult and easy bring about each other
Long and short reveal each other
High and low support each other
Music and voice harmonize each other
Front and back follow each other.*

Lao Tzu



It's a black and white issue: gray is grey, and there's no two ways about it.

Jarod Kintz



Somewhere beyond right and wrong, there is a garden. I will meet you there.

Rumi



Knowing is not a play of ideas within the mind of a Cartesian subject that stands outside the physical world the subject seeks to know.

Barad



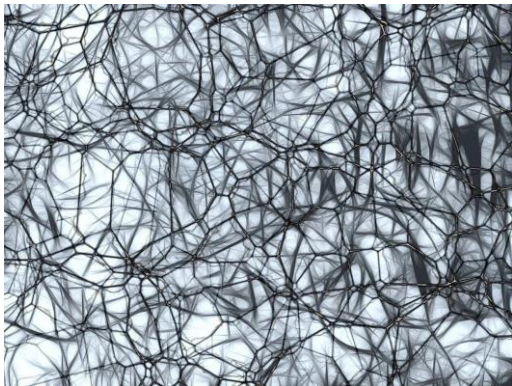
The first pragmatic strategy to make persistent conflicts manageable is breaking up dualisms . . . These dualisms encourage ‘black-and-white’ thinking, which brings conflicts to a head and leads debate to reach a total deadlock and to get stuck in childish ‘does not’ - ‘does too’ exchanges.

Keulatz



Anyone who plunges into infinity, in both time and space, further and further without stopping, needs fixed points, mileposts, for otherwise his movement is indistinguishable from standing still. There must be stars past which he shoots, beacons from which he can measure the distance he has traversed.

M. C. Escher



. . . life, like that of every human being, does not oscillate between two poles only – say between the body and the mind or spirit, between the saint and the profligate – but between thousands, between innumerable polar opposites.

Hermann Hesse



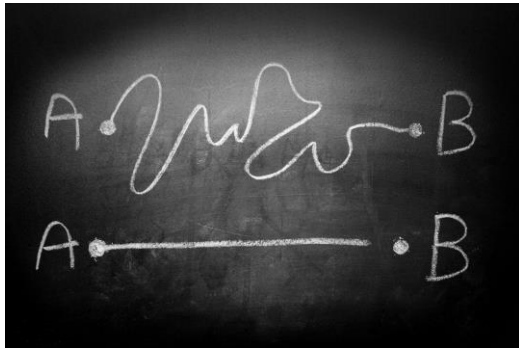
The division into two was necessary in order to bring the “one” world out of the state of potentiality into reality. Reality consists of a multiplicity of things. But one is not a number; the first number is two, and with it multiplicity and reality begin.

C. G. Jung



- *A road, uphill, downhill, one and the same (Fragment 60)*
- *Beginning is together with end (Fragment 103)*
- *Into rivers, the same ones, on those who step in, different waters flow (Fragment 12)*

Heraclitus



Science may or may not find the one true origin for human symbol-making, but criticism, in caves and classrooms alike, will always have to learn to count to two.

Gopnik



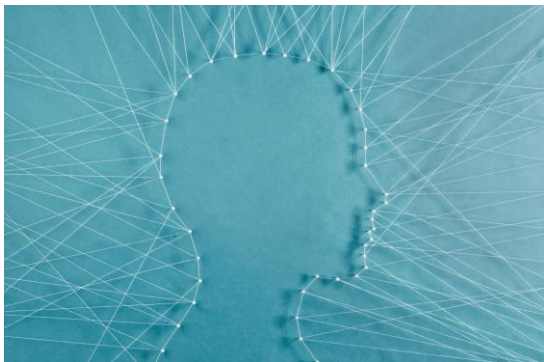
When the cognitive imperative, driven by some existential fear, directs the binary operator to make sense of the metaphysical landscape, it obliges by . . . rearranging it into the pairs of irreconcilable opposites that become the key elements of myth: heaven and hell; good and evil; celebration and tragedy; birth, death and rebirth; isolation and unity.

Newberg, D'Aquili and Rause



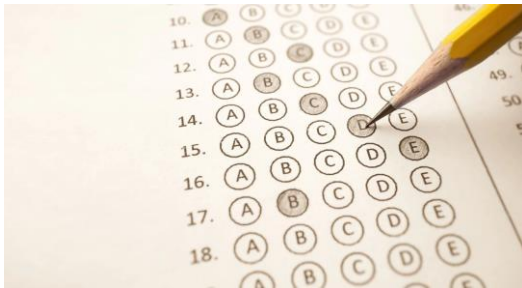
The recognition and reconciliation of ‘opposites’ lies at the heart of our most personal and global problems and is perhaps the most neglected developmental task of western education.

Adam



The ability to act systemically in the world, with an acute appreciation of 'wholeness', 'interconnectedness' and 'emergence', is a function of particular intellectual and value assumptions concerning the nature of reality, the nature of knowledge and of knowing, the nature of human nature.

R. Bawden



Recognizing that there is “no one right answer” does not necessarily imply that one answer cannot be better than the other, and learning the criteria within each domain for evaluating competing claims is an important part of subject-matter learning, and of epistemological development.

Tabak and Weinstock



Change is the one constant.

Heraclitus

There is no new thing under the Sun. -

Ecclesiastes 1



*I almost wish I hadn't gone down the rabbit-hole
- and yet – and yet - it's rather curious, you
know, this sort of life!*

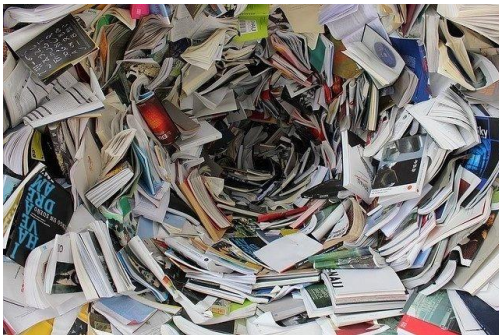
Lewis Carroll



The void is a spectral realm; not even nothing can be free of ghosts.

Knowing is not a play of ideas within the mind of a Cartesian subject that stands outside the physical world the subject seeks to know.

Karen Barad



*UP! up! my Friend, and quit your books;
Or surely you'll grow double*

Wordsworth



We are balanced like a flame between the two darknesses, the darkness of the beginning and the darkness of the end. For us, the beginning is not the end; the two are not one.

D. H. Lawrence



- "The purpose of education is to turn windows into mirrors". (Sydney J. Harris)
- "Through all the windows I only see infinity". (Mark Z. Danielewski)
- "I live in a small house, but my window looks out on a very large world". (Confucius)
- "My favourite journey is looking out the window". (Edward Gorey)



*What becomes one
Which then becomes two
Which then becomes something
That is often thought over
And may well be fought over
As Zero
Or One
Or Two
Or Three
Or even by some
As Infinity?*

R. J. Adam

Personal, Particular,
Individual, Internal,
Perception, Experience

+

Independent, Impartial,
Neutral, Equitable,
Open-minded,
External, Real,
Verifiable, Actual,
Factual, Empirical,
Rational

Subjective

Objective

Bias, Prejudice, Partial,
Illusion, One-sidedness,
Distorted,
Opinionated,
Emotional

-

Cold, Dispassionate,
Detached, Impersonal,
Clinical, Inhuman,
Reductionist

Story, Parable,
Allegory, Metaphor,
Experience

+

Science, Logic, Analysis,
Law, Evidence, Reason,
Empiricism, Experiment

Mythos

Logos

Myth (neg), 'Old wives
tale', Superstition,
Fictitious, 'Away with
the Fairies'

-

Scientism, Reductivism,
Logocentrism, 'Living in
an Ivory Tower'

Theoretical, General,
Conceptual, Symbolic,
Ideal, Pure, Broad

+

Practical, Specific,
Contextual, Actual,
Literal, Real, Tangible,
Definitive, Applied,
Conclusive, Authentic

Abstract

Concrete

Vague, 'Head in the
Clouds', 'Pie in the
Sky', Impractical,
Woolly-headed,
Ambiguous, Puritanical,
Untested, Conjecture

-

Literalistic, Narrow-
minded, Provincial,
Head in the Sand,
Materialistic

Fun, Engaged, Innovative,
Meaningful, Colourful,
Insightful, Vibrant, Immersive,
Free-spirited, Imaginative
Flamboyant

+

Reasoned, Observant,
Methodical, Discerning,
Careful, Aware, Insightful

Creative

Critical

Impractical, Ungrounded,
Manipulative, Faddish,
Pretentious, Over-dramatic,
Emotional, Fickle, Indecisive,
Chaotic

-

Reductive, 'Paralysis by
Analysis', Armchair Critic,
Cynical, Dismissive,
Judgemental, Unimaginative,
Argumentative

Trust, Possibility, Imagination,
Hope

+

Measured, Sane, Rational,
Intelligent, Logical, Clarity,
Coherence, Trustworthy

Faith

Reason

Naivete, Gullibility,
Fundamentalism, Superstition,
Susceptibility, Irrational,
Wishy-washy, Suggestible

-

Sceptical, Reductive, Over-
thinking, Over-sensitive,
Unimaginative

Contemporary,
Relevant, Current,
Advanced, Fresh,
Imaginative, Ascending

+

Experienced,
Knowledgeable,
Wiley, Canny, Wise

Progressive

Traditional

Naïve, Ignorant, 'Wet
behind the ears',
'Green', Untried,
Unknown, Unfamiliar,
Rushed

-

Frail, Stubborn,
Contaminated, Rotting,
Declining, Outdated,
Backwards, Fearful

Expectation, Hope,
Change, Progress,
Possibility,
Development

+

Continuity, Familiarity,
'Tried and Tested',
Experienced, Learned

Future

Past

Uncertainty, Dread,
Apocalyptic, Doubtful

Irrelevant, Outdated,
Defunct, Extinct,
Redundant, Outmoded,
Boring, 'Set in ways'

-

Liberating, Freeing,
Emancipating, Creative,
Expressive, Diversifying

+

Stable, Organised, Mobilised,
Efficient, Measurable,
Quantifiable, Coordinated,
United

Chaos

Order

Unruly, Disorganised,
Fragmented, Chaotic,
Tangential, Erratic, Divisive

-

Regimented, Stifling, Imposing,
Restrictive, Enslaving,
Conforming

Interconnected,
Contextual, Nuanced,
Indeterminate,
Multifaceted, Dynamic

+

Clear, Unambiguous,
Whole, Stable, Certain,
Sure, Singular

Relative

Absolute

Wishy-washy,
Rambling, Knotted,
Tangled, Confusing,
Fragmented

-

Tyrannical, Stubborn,
Uncompromising, Over-
simplistic,
Fundamentalistic,
Domineering,
Controlling, Closed

Sophisticated,
Elaborate, Intricate,
Detailed

+

Efficient, Ergonomic,
Economical, Refined,
Transparent,
Straightforward,
Honest, Lucid, Sincere

Complex

Simple

Convoluted, Confused,
Tortuous, Rambling

-

Vacuous, Docile,
Amateur, Shallow,
Superficial, Backward,
Uneducated

Perceptive, Natural,
Sensitive, Transparent,
Real

+

Balanced, Enlightened,
Reasonable, Sensible,
Judicious, Sober, Sane

Intuitive

Rational

Primitive, Unreflective,
Thoughtless, Weak,
Suggestible, Unhinged,
Reactive

-

Manipulative, Cold,
Judgmental, Serious,
Arrogant, Distant,
Detached,

Creative, Explorative,
Lateral, Innovative,
Imaginative, Inventive,
Freedom

+

Focussed, Centred,
Attentive,
Concentrated,
Conscientious

Divergent

Convergent

Rebellious, Deviant,
Dissident, Mutinous,
Traitorous, Distractible

-

Fixated, Obsessive,
Perseverant, Inflexible,
Fanatical. Controlling

Well-rounded,
Encompassing,
Integrated, Inclusive, Full,
Universal, Wholesome,
Balanced

+

Detailed, Precise,
Accurate, Exact,
Meticulous, Thorough,
Specific

Holistic

Atomistic

Vague, Uncertain,
Imprecise, Shallow,
Superficial, Hollow

-

Reductive, Belittling,
Obscure, Diminishing,
Fragmenting, Disabling,
Fussy, Finicky

Meaningful, Warm,
Vital, Willful, Soulful,
Inspiring, Touching,
Powerful, Dynamic,
Lasting

+

Substantial, Real,
Corporeal, Tangible,
True

Spirit

Matter

Intangible, Illusory,
Spooky, Emotional,
Irrational, Susceptible

-

Meaningless, Dull,
Lifeless, Inert

Unique, Individual,
Creative, Varied,
Choice, Distinctive

+

Solidarity, Belonging,
Integrity, Oneness,
Organised

Diversity

Unity

Discordant, Chaotic,
Unruly, Disorganised

-

Sameness, Dullness,
Conforming, Static,
Cloned