

Apprehension vs. Comprehension



CONFUSING WORDS SERIES
APPREHENSION AND COMPREHENSION

What a piece of work is a man, how noble in reason, how infinite in faculties, in form and moving how express and admirable, in action how like an angel, in apprehension how like a god.

— WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

A man may imagine things that are false, but he can only understand things that are true, for if the things be false, the apprehension of them is not understanding.

— ISAAC NEWTON

Some other faculty than the intellect is necessary for the apprehension of reality.

— HENRI BERGSON

Wisdom is that apprehension of heavenly things to which the spirit rises through love.

— HONORÉ DE BALZAC

Cold reason is purely human, a faculty of the brain. But natural instinct is an endowment of deity. Reason can only develop at the expense of instinct.

Reason is the outcome of a slow development of the human brain (νοητικόν). Instinct is the spiritual unity of the five senses endowed by Deity (αισθητικόν).

It is only when the sixth sense fully develops in the average man of the Sixth Race by Buddhi, galvanised by the essence of the awakened Manas, that man can comprehend what he beholds clearly. This is spiritual clairvoyance, par excellence, as opposed to psychic. The one is normal and real; the other, abnormal and counterfeit.

For an in-depth analysis, consult “Sixth Sense is Reason over Instinct,” in our Constitution of Man Series.

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SERIES EDITOR



Knowing by the senses versus knowing by the mind.

To apprehend is to know¹ by the senses.

Apprehend	To perceive. To seize, applied to Romance language fringe sense, <i>i.e.</i> , lay hold with the mind. To become or to be conscious by the senses of (any external perception).
Δράττομαι	To grasp with the mind (not as in grasping a drachma).
Καταλαμβάνω	To grasp, to seize for oneself. Cf. φαντασία (Phantasia), <i>esp.</i> in Stoicism.
Συλλαμβάνω	To collect, gather together, put together, lay hands on, seize, conceive, grasp the meaning of, comprehend.

To comprehend is to know by the mind.

Comprehend	To understand. To seize, grasp, lay hold, catch with mind or senses.
Αντιλαμβάνω	To grasp with the mind, perceive, apprehend.

Examples

“When the light shone in the darknesse, and our darknesse, though it apprehended, yet it comprehended it not.” Austin: *Medit.* 1635

“To *know* may mean either to perceive or apprehend, or it may mean to understand or comprehend. . . . Thus a blind man, who cannot *know* about light in the first sense, may *know* about light in the second, if he studies a treatise on optics.” Ward: *Encycl. Brit.* XX. 49 s.v. *Psychology*

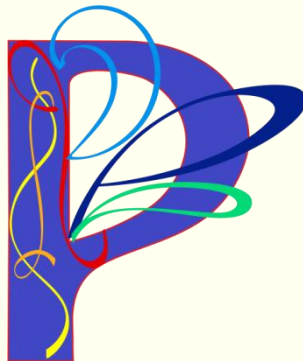
¹ Knowledge comes from *gnosco*, *gnosis*, *jnana*. Wit, from *weid*, *vide*, *veda*. — ED. PHIL.

Related words

Γνωρίζω	To make known, point out.
Κατανοέω	To observe well, understand, appreciate, introspect.

Δράσις vs. Πράξις

Δράσις	Strength, efficacy, action (<i>opp.</i> of passivity).
Δράττομαι	To grasp with the mind (not as in grasping a drachma).
Δράω	To accomplish, to do.
Πράξις	The result (<i>esp.</i> good results) or issue of business, action.



Suggested reading for students.



More commonly confusing words.

- ADULTERY, LUST, MALICE
- ADYTUM AND ASYLUM
- AETHER AND ETHER
- AGNOSTICISM, ATHEISM, MONISM
- AION, ETERNITY, DURATION
- ASTRAL LIGHT IS A TERM VERY LITTLE UNDERSTOOD
- AURA AND MAGNETISM
- BUDDHA AND PRINCE SIDDHARTHA BUDDHA
- BUDHISM IS INNER WISDOM
- CELIBACY, CONTINENCE, MONASTICISM
- CHEMIST AND ALCHEMIST
- CHILIASTS, MILLENNIUMISTS, MILLENARIANS
- DARKNESS IS INNER LIGHT
- DEVOTION, WORSHIP, LOYALTY
- EMANATION AND RADIATION
- EMBLEM AND SYMBOL
- GRAIKOS, HELLENE, HELLAS
- HIGHER SELF AND HIGHER EGO
- IMAGINATION AND IMITATION
- JIVA AND JIVATMAN
- JNANA AND YAJNA
- KAMIC VERSUS MANASIC ACTION
- KARMA AND KRIYA
- KARMA, NEMESIS, ADRASTEIA, THEMIS
- KOSMOS AND COSMOS
- KRONOS AND CHRONOS

CONFUSING WORDS SERIES
SUGGESTED READING FOR STUDENTS

- LAUGHTER, SMILES, TEARS
- LIGHT AND HEAT
- LUST, JEALOUSY, PHYSICAL LOVE
- MAGNETISM, MESMERISM, HYPNOTISM
- MATERIALISM, SPIRITUALISM, MONISM
- MUZIRIS, MNIZURIN, MNOUZIRIS
- NIRVANA AND PARINIRVANA
- PANTACLE AND PENTACLE
- RAJA AND RISHI
- REMEMBRANCE, RECOLLECTION, REMINISCENCE
- SKANDHA, SHLOKA, STANZA, SUTRA
- SPIRIT, SPIRITS, SPIRITUALISM
- SPIRITUALISM IS A PHILOSOPHY OF YESTERDAY
- SVABHAVA AND SVAYAMBHU
- TELETE, MYESIS, EPOPTeia
- THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL OCCULTISM
- THEOSOPHIST AND THEOSOPHER
- TRANSMIGRATION, REINCARNATION, GILGULIM
- TRIRATNA AND TRISHARANA
- TRUE AND FALSE PERSONALITY
- UNITY AND DUALITY
- VACH IS NOT MERE SPEECH
- VEDANTA, BUDDHISM, THEOSOPHY
- VRIL AND BOVRIL
- WILL AND DESIRE
- YOGIS AND MAHATMAS

