

How does the mind work?

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Questions to stimulate your thinking about how the mind works

1. Can you decide to know something?
2. Can you decide to know anything (an arbitrary claim)?
3. When you're awake, you can decide not to evacuate your bladder, but when you're asleep, how does your mind prevent evacuation?
4. When you're awake, you can decide to walk, but when you're asleep, how can your mind cause sleep-walking?
5. Do you think that a trapeze artist could sleep-walk on a tightrope?
6. When you work hard on a problem and then sleep through the night, why does this tend to enhance your ability to solve the problem after you wake up in the morning?
7. Why can you walk and converse at the same time but you can't calculate and converse at the same time?
8. Why can you walk and calculate at the same time but you can't sprint and calculate at the same time?
9. When you hear a language that you don't understand, you hear a sequence of sounds, not a sequence of words. By contrast, when you hear a language that you understand, you hear a sequence of words, not a sequence of sounds. Why?
10. If the mind is immaterial, how does the brain create it, and what is it? If the mind is material, why does it seem immaterial?
11. Have you ever seen, heard, or touched another person's mind? If not, then why do you believe that they have a mind?