

# Mind Topics

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Content from Philip Bitar, *Why? In Pursuit of the Ultimate Answer: Abridged* (2008)  
[www.philipbitar.com](http://www.philipbitar.com)

- ◆ **What is a mind? What is a mind for?**
  - ◇ Centralized control system for free agent / animal
  - ◇ Directs body in acquiring energy resources in order to maintain body
  - ◇ Directs body in all other activities of interest to the free agent
  
- ◆ **What are the basic components and activities of a mind?**
  - ◇ Content activities — sensational, intellectual, emotional
  - ◇ Control activities — consciousness/attention, decision-making
  
- ◆ **What is the purpose of consciousness/attention?**
  - ◇ Focus mental activity for concept/skill development, decision-making
  - ◇ Automaticity, habit, mind wandering, discomfort, blindsight, toad, alligator, shark, conscience, temper
  
- ◆ **Why does consciousness seem mysterious?**
  - ◇ Public objects and activities  
Sensible so seem tangible, physical
  - ◇ Private objects and activities  
Not sensible so seem intangible, immaterial
  
- ◆ **What kinds of objects are there?**
  - ◇ Biological — animals, plants
  - ◇ Non-biological — computers, cars, rocks
  
- ◆ **What is my personal identity?**
  - ◇ Public — body is public object
  - ◇ Private — mental activity is private
  
- ◆ **What is knowledge?**
  - ◇ Knowledge, skill, wisdom
  
- ◆ **Are we responsible for our decisions?**
  - ◇ Prove indeterminism
  - ◇ Scale reductionism — untenable
  - ◇ Scale extensionism — intuitive, implies personal responsibility