

## Components of Thinking

Thinking is the mental process in which beings form psychological associations and models of the world. Thinking is manipulating information, as when we form concepts, ~~engage~~ engage in problem solving, reason and making decisions. Thought, the act of thinking, produces more thought. As a cognitive process, thinking bridges the gap between stimulation and response, and therefore it affects performance. Thinking is better understood through an examination of its components, and thinking involves two major kinds of components: images and concepts.



## ① Images:

Suppose, I ask you to imagine a cat sitting on the tree with its tail slightly raised and curved. You would most-likely try to form a visual image of the whole situation, something similar to what the girl in the picture is doing. Or think of another situation where you are asked to imagine yourself standing in front of Taj Mahal and describe what you see. While doing this you are actually forming a visual image of the event. You are ~~probably~~ probably trying to see through your mind's eye, just like the way you would see a picture. In doing this, you were mostly forming and using mental images. An image is a mental representation of a sensory experience; it can be used to think



Page No.:  
Date:  
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about to things, places and events.

## ② Concepts:

All thinking requires concepts, mental representations of categories of experiences according to common features. The concept of "apple" for example, is really a category of many different examples. Since real apples can be red, yellow or green, sweet or sour, on a tree, in a basket of fruit etc. The "common features" of all apples have to do with hard-to-describe qualities of taste and texture, origin and form. The concept of "fruit" is a broader category, since it includes the concept of "apple" as well as many other, quite different concepts.