

Philosophy Key Words and Definitions

proposition	What is claimed by a declarative statement. Propositions can go after "that" in statements like, "I believe that..."
assertion/claim	The putting forward of a proposition as something that's true.
antecedent	The first part (first proposition) of a conditional statement, usually the part of the sentence that comes after "if". E.g. in both "If it rains then I will get wet", and "I will get wet if it rains", the antecedent is "it rains".
consequent	The second part (second proposition) of a conditional statement, usually the part of the sentence that comes after "then".
analytic	A proposition that one knows to be true or false by analysing the meanings of the words, e.g. "A bachelor is an unmarried man," or "A square has four sides."
synthetic	A proposition that can be true or false by analysing the meanings of the words and because observation of the world confirms its truth or falseness.
a priori	Knowledge that comes without sense experience (prior to/before sense experience, innate).
a posteriori	Knowledge that only comes through sense experience (behind/after).
necessary	A proposition that can't be false, e.g. $2+2=4$, or what's needed for truth
contingent	A proposition that could be true or false, depending on how the world really is.
consistent	When two or more claims are true.
inconsistent	When two or more claims can't both be true at the same time.
objective	Independent of what people think or feel.
subjective	Dependent upon personal view or preference.
tautology	A statement that says the same thing twice, e.g. "Green things are green."
dilemma	Two opposing options, both of which face significant objections.
paradox	A statement or proposition that, despite sound (or apparently sound) reasoning from acceptable premises, leads to a conclusion that seems senseless, logically unacceptable, or self-contradictory. e.g. "This sentence is false" (if it's true, it is false; if it's false, it's true).
prove/proof	To show/be shown a proposition is true, using a valid argument.
true/false	Exactly what you think they mean!
justification	What's offered as reasons for believing an assertion.