

## Introduction and Good Housekeeping

### 1. “Analytic Philosophers”

Gottlob Frege (1848-1925)  
Bertrand Russell (1872-1970)  
G. E. Moore (1873-1958)  
Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951)  
W. V. O. Quine (1908-2000)  
A. J. Ayer (1910-1989)  
Paul Grice (1913-1988)  
P. F. Strawson (1919-2006)  
Donald Davidson (1917-2003)  
Saul Kripke (1940- )

### “Continental Philosophers”

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900)  
Husserl (1859-1938)  
  
Heidegger (1889-1976)  
Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980)  
Maurice Merleau-Ponty (1908-1960)  
Simone de Beauvoir (1908-1986)

[*Pre-Frege Continental philosophers*: Johann Gottlieb Fichte (1762-1814), Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph von Schelling (1775-1854), G. W. F. Hegel (1770-1831), Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860), Søren Kierkegaard (1813-1855)]

**So, what is analytic philosophy?** It is best to think of analytic philosophy as a style of doing philosophy—not as a set of fixed doctrines or, as it is sometimes thought, the kind of philosophy done by philosophers in Great Britain and the United States.

**How do we characterize this “way of doing philosophy”?** Part of our project is to answer this question (another is to evaluate what some have achieved or how they have fallen short). But, at the start, we can say at least this much. Analytic philosophers are implicitly committed to the ideals of clarity, precision and argumentation. As a result, analytic philosophers often feel akin to those working in the sciences and in mathematics (despite what the latter may feel about this). We will see that the goal of clarity and precision is undertaken, in part at least, by a careful analysis of language and a respect for pre-theoretical thought (common sense, the sciences).

### 2. Good Housekeeping

Sometimes we talk *about* dogs, cats and trees—things, objects, substances in the world. Sometimes we talk *about* language—words, phrases, sentences, expressions, strings of symbols.

In either case we use words, expressions, sentences (etc.) to do this.

- E.g. (a) Fish have gills  
(b) ‘Fish’ has four letters  
(c) ‘Fish’ is a word of English.

When we are talking about a word, as in (b) and (c), we place single quotes around the word.<sup>1</sup> We *mention* the word 'fish'. But in (a), we are talking about objects in the world. We *use* the word 'fish' to refer to these objects.

Let's think about these examples:

- (d) Copper is a metal, and contains no letters.
- (e) Copper contains six letters, and is not a metal.
- (f) Boston is populous
- (g) Boston has two syllables
- (h) Cheese is derived from milk
- (i) Cheese is derived from a word in Old English
- (j) I don't know what if and only if means.
- (k) I don't know what that flashing light means.
- (l) Clare is Canadian
- (m) Clare is Canadian is a true sentence of English
- (n) Boston is populous is about Boston.

---

<sup>1</sup> Notice that Soames uses single quotes or italics for this purpose. I will only ever use single quotes. But be alert that Soames might use either.