

# Give Us an Example of God!

Post by "Godfrey" of July 10, 2024 at 4:51 PM

"Apperception" is an intriguing word that I've not given much attention to. Here's an excerpt from Wikipedia:

*In [psychology](#), apperception is "the process by which new experience is assimilated to and transformed by the residuum of past experience of an individual to form a new whole".<sup>[2]</sup> In short, it is to [perceive](#) new experience in relation to past experience. The term is found in the early psychologies of [Herbert Spencer](#), [Hermann Lotze](#), and [Wilhelm Wundt](#). It originally means passing the threshold into consciousness, i.e., to perceive. But the percept is changed when reaching consciousness due to its entry into an already present interpretive context; thus it is not perceived but apperceived.*

*According to [Johann Friedrich Herbart](#), apperception is that process by which an aggregate or "mass" of presentations becomes systematized (apperceptions-system) by the accretion of new elements, either sense-given or as a product of the inner workings of the mind. He thus emphasizes in apperception the connection with the self as resulting from the sum of antecedent experience. Hence in education the teacher should fully acquaint himself with the mental development of the pupil, in order that he may make full use of what the pupil already knows.<sup>[1]</sup>*

*[Alfred Adler](#) used the notion of apperception to explain certain principles of perception in child psychology. A child perceives different situations not as they actually exist, but by means of the biases prism of their personal interests, in other words, according to their personal apperception scheme.<sup>[5]</sup>*

*Apperception is thus a general term for all mental processes in which a presentation is brought into connection with an already existent and systematized mental conception, and thereby is classified, explained or, in a word, understood; e.g. a new [scientific phenomenon](#) is explained in the light of phenomena already analysed and classified. The whole intelligent life of man is, consciously or unconsciously, a process of apperception, in as much as every act of attention involves the apperipient process.*

It seems to have some potential overlap with pattern recognition, although some (such as Wundt) think of it as a conscious process. I'm not sure if it's helpful or not to examine the word further, but it does seem to at least have some of the same issues as *prolepsis* in terms of pinning down a definition.