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Post by “Cassius” of February 15, 2020 at 5:30 AM

[Wikipedia - Problem of Universals:](#)

In [metaphysics](#), the **problem of universals** refers to the question of whether [properties](#) exist, and if so, what they are.^[1] Properties are qualities or relations that two or more entities have in common. The various kinds of properties, such as qualities and [relations](#), are referred to as [universals](#). For instance, one can imagine three cup holders on a table that have in common the quality of *being circular or exemplifying circularity*,^[2] or two daughters that have in common *being the female offsprings of Frank*. There are many such properties, such as being human, red, male or female, liquid, big or small, taller than, father of, etc.^[3] While philosophers agree that human beings talk and think about properties, they disagree on whether these universals exist in [reality](#) or merely in thought, speech and sight.

The problem of universals relates to a number of questions in close relation to not only metaphysics but, to [logic](#) and [epistemology](#), all in efforts to understand how the thought of universals has a connection to those of singular properties.^[4]