# Relating Things

In the previous lesson, we saw how Indistinct Qualities can compare different things by putting them into the same group.

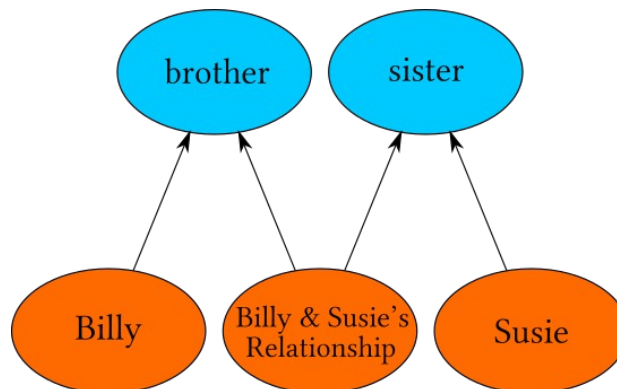In this lesson, we will see how we can use Indistinct Qualities to show a *relationship* between *dissimilar* things.

## Relationships as Referents

If two **Referents** have a relationship, we can make the relationship into a third **Referent**.



This **Relationship Referent** can then share **Qualities** with the other, **"Related" Referents**.
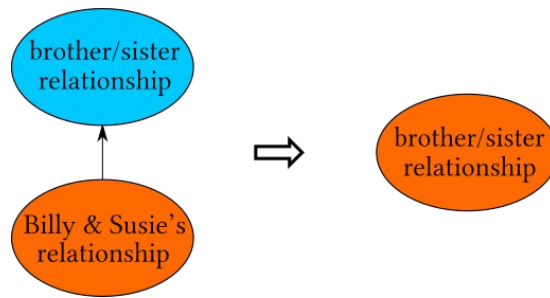


In this example, Billy and Susie's **Relationship Referent** has both a "brother" and "sister" **Quality** to it, which are shared by Billy and Susie, respectively.
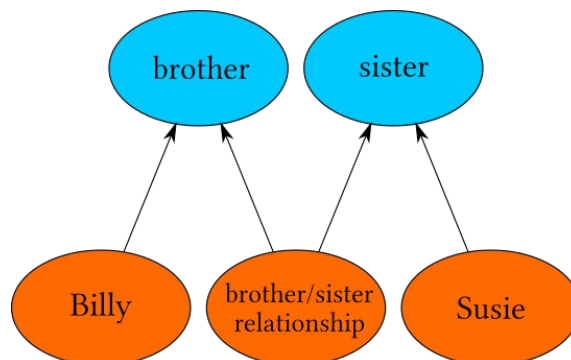
This **Relationship Referent** could be put into a group with other, similar relationships. That means we can give the relationship an Indistinct Quality...
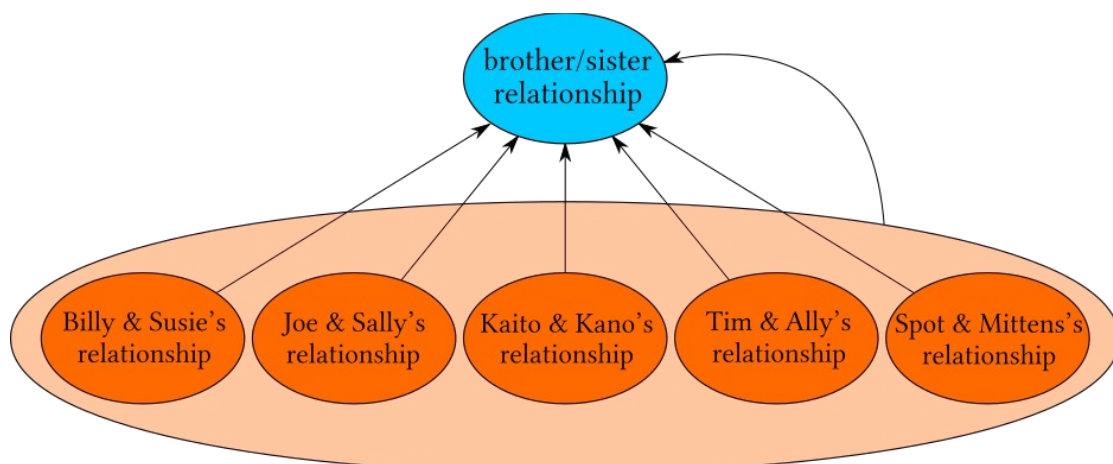
...and then use that **Quality** as a name for the **Referent**.



Now it's easier to see how we could say that their **Relationship Referent** has both the "brother" and "sister" **Qualities**. We can call these **Shared Qualities**.



Of course Billy and Susie's relationship is unique, and has many **Qualities** other than "brother/sister". "Brother/sister" is just the **Indistinct Quality** we are using as a name for the **Distinct Referent** that represents their relationship.
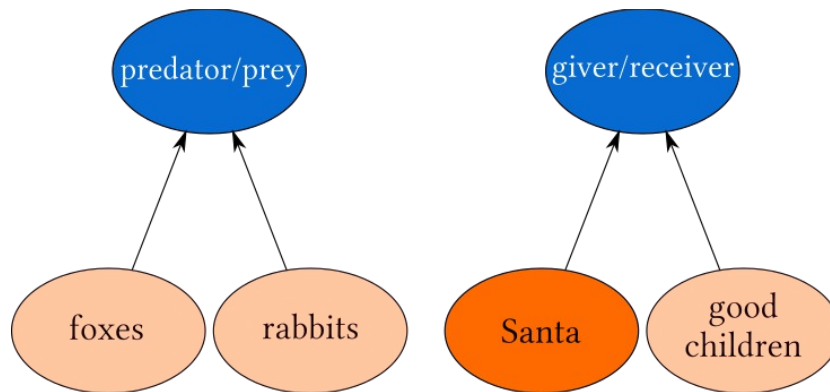
## Creating Distinct Qualities

We can see in the previous diagram that our "Billy" and "Susie" **Referents** have three **Idea** bubbles between them: **Relationship Referent**, a **Shared Quality** of Billy and the relationship, and a **Shared Quality** of Susie and the relationship. Because all relationships can be conceived in this exact same way, these three **Ideas** can be **Reduced** in a regular way as well. This **Reduction** of a **Relationship Referent** and its **Shared Qualities** into a single **Idea** is what we call a **Distinct Quality**.
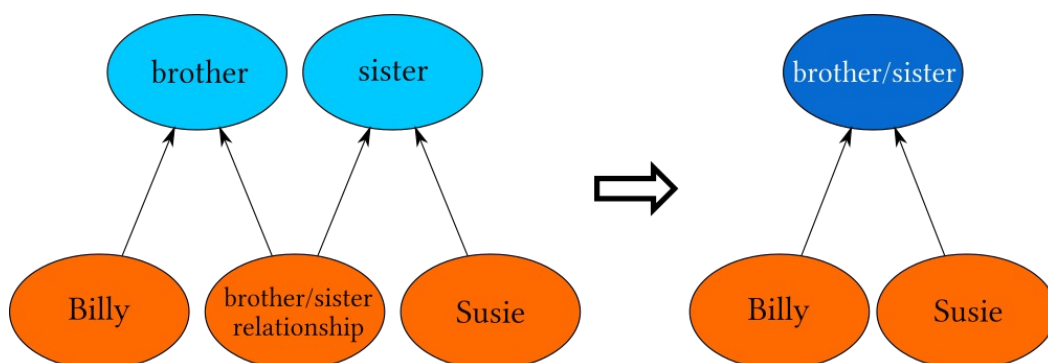


Aside from being a **Reduction**, this also counts as a *third* form of **Absorption**, which we will call "**Relating Referents**".

We can also show a relationship between two **Indistinct Referents**, or between a mix of **Distinct** and **Indistinct Referents**.



The **Distinct Qualities** we have seen so far are *Bilateral*, which means the relationship is shown as a **Quality** of *both* **Referents**.

We can also express **Distinct Qualities** *Unilaterally*, so *one* of the **Referents** is taking the relationship as a **Quality**, and the *other* **Referent** acts as a **Quality** of that relationship.
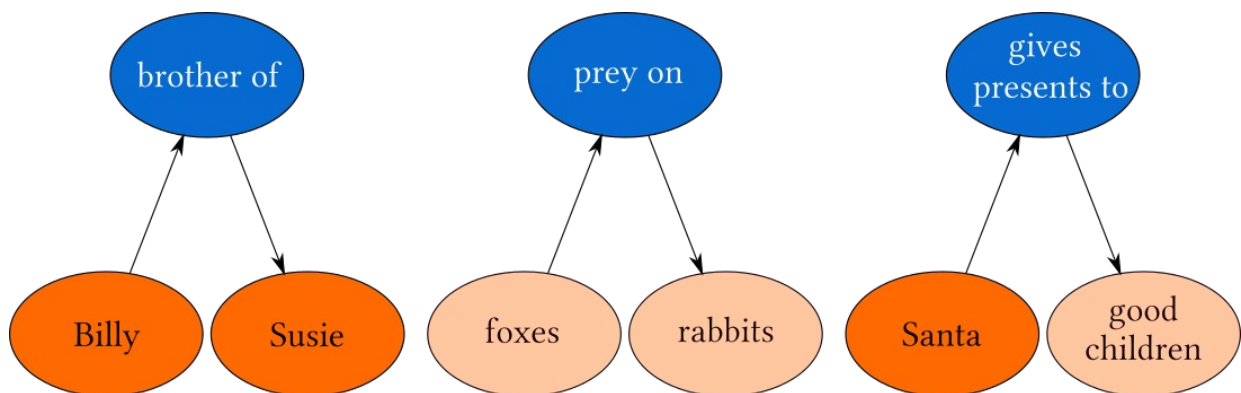


When we relate two **Referents** in a **Unilateral** way, we can call the one taking the **Quality** the "**Subject Referent**" and the one acting as a **Quality** of the relationship the "**Object Referent**". Sometimes I like to place the **Subject Referent** in front of the **Object Referent** in my diagrams, but that is optional.
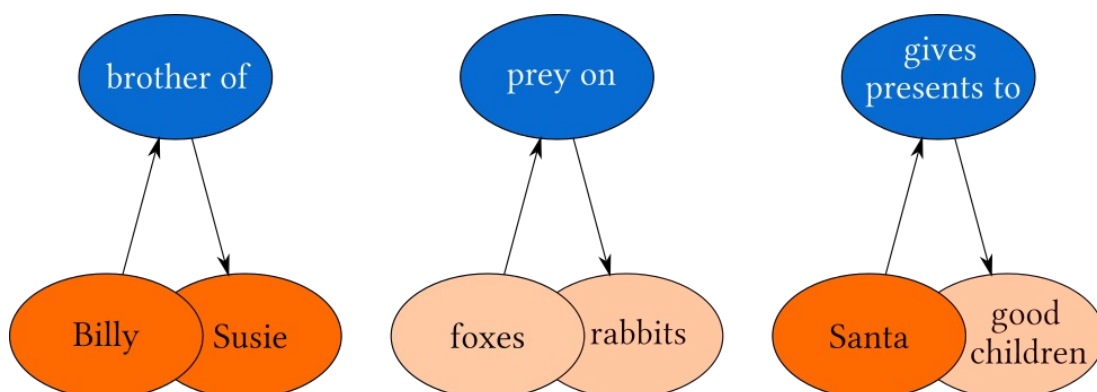
Finally, we can show a relationship by simply **Reducing** the Distinct Quality and **Object Referent** to an Indistinct Quality.
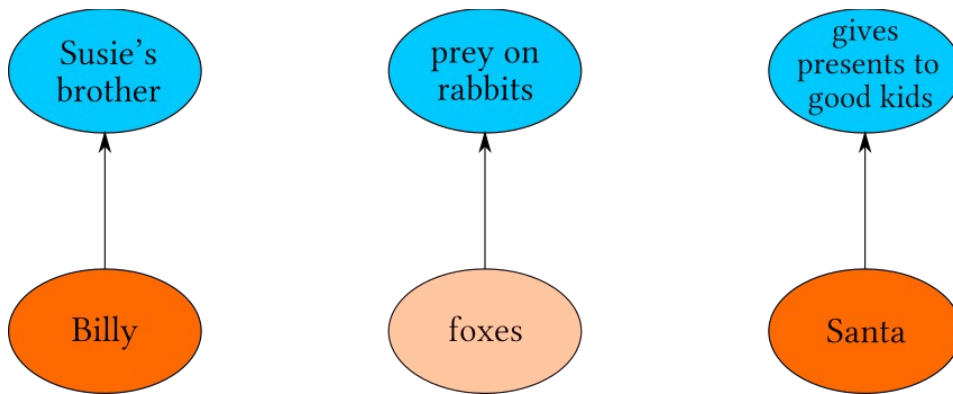


## Using Distinct Qualities to Connect Subjects to Objects

Using both **Unilateral** and especially **Bilateral** Distinct Qualities, we now have a much simpler way of expressing all sorts of **Related** things.

The first of these, which we've already seen, is the "Subject-Verb-Object" or "SVO" sentence. Let's compare our previous method of expressing SVO with a **Composite Idea**, to a method using a Distinct Quality.
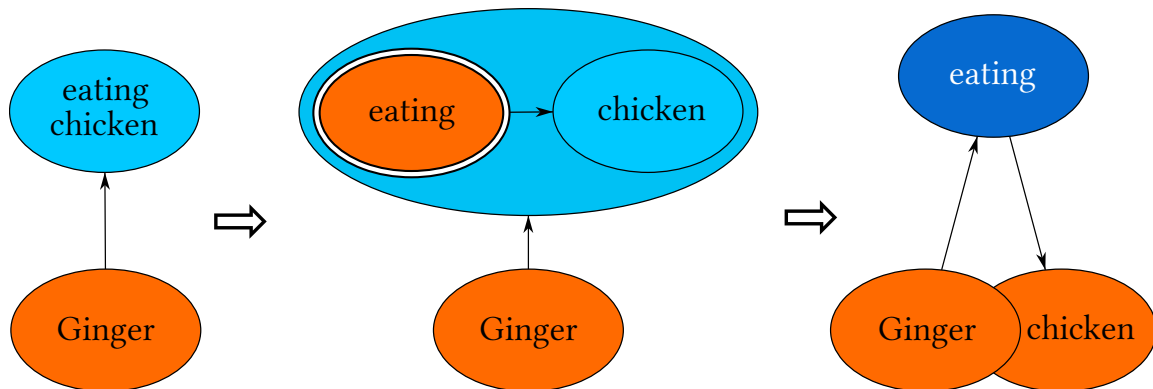


Cause and effect can also be imagined as SVO, and expressed the same way.

Ex. Hey! You made me mess up!
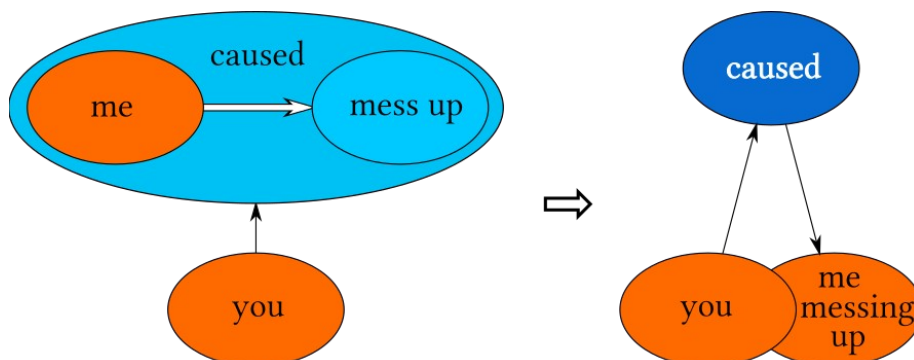
Ex.  Mom made me clean my room.  :'(
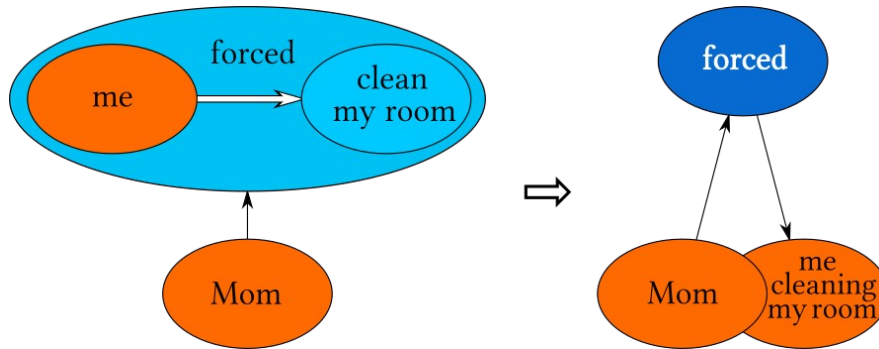


Ex.  Everyone is relieved because exams are over.



Ex.  I'm just excited to be here!



Since Distinct Qualities are used to show a relationship, they can also be used for so-called "**Indirect Objects**", which are not directly acted upon by the **Subject Referent**.



We will learn more about **Direct** and **Indirect Objects** in a later lesson.

# Using Distinct Qualities to Describe Unique Things
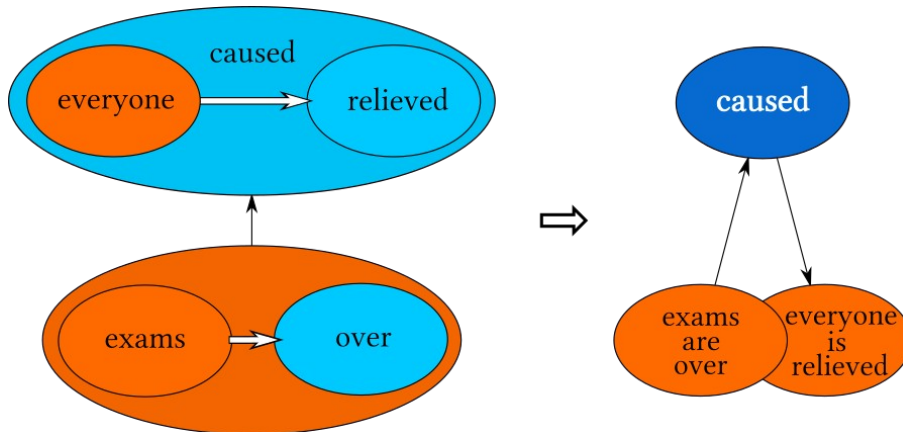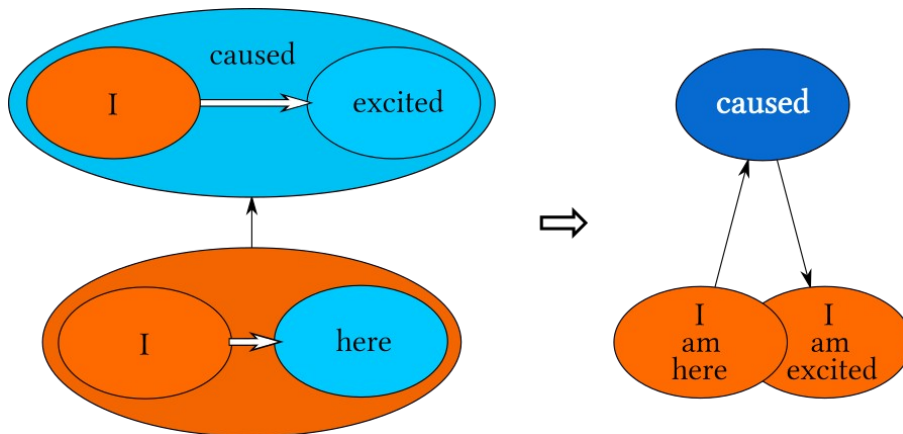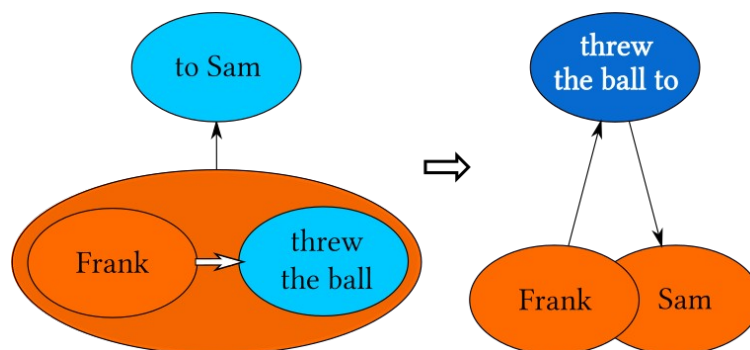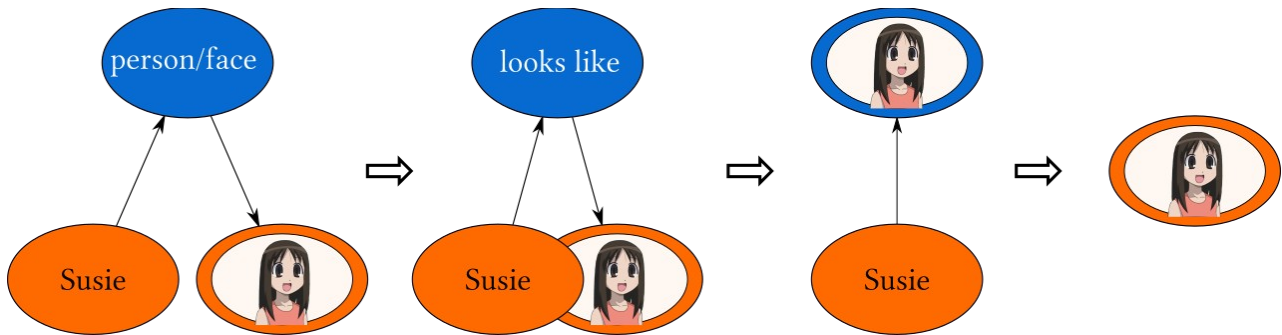
Distinct Qualities can also be used for Indistinct Qualities that we want to *think of* as being unique. For instance, it's possible for two different people to have an identical face, but this is rare enough that we generally think of it as a unique **Quality**. Of course, this means treating a person's face as its own **Distinct Referent**.



When we choose to think of an Indistinct Quality as a Distinct Quality, *or vice versa*, we will call it **Reimagining the Quality**. For instance, if it turns out that Susie *does* have a twin, we would need to **Reimagine** her face from a Distinct to an Indistinct Quality.

Just as Susie's rather unique face can be treated as a Distinct Quality, and by extension a Distinct Referent, other unique **Qualities** like "the sun" can be regarded this way as well.
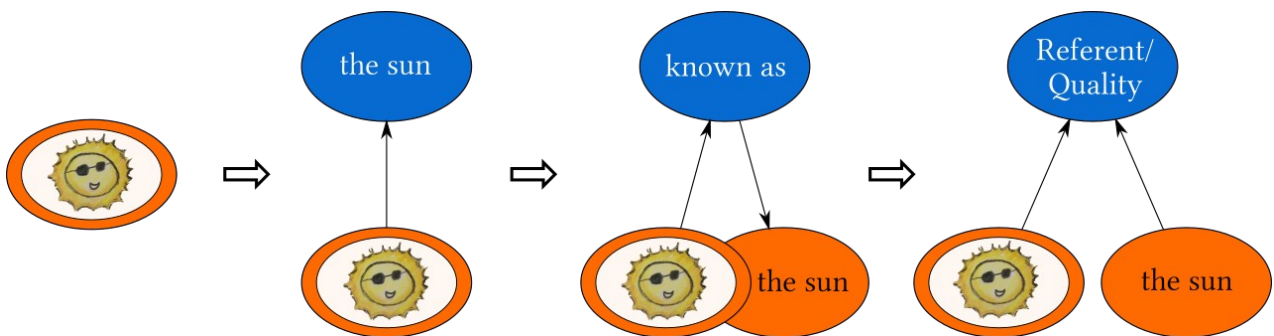


To be clear, I'm not talking about the *words* "the sun" here, but the unique **Quality** of "being the Earth's sun". There is only one thing in the universe with this unique **Quality**.

Likewise, "the boss of our company" is a unique **Quality** that only one person can have at a time, and is therefore best imagined as a Distinct Quality. And, just as before, we can think of *the job title itself* as a **Distinct Referent**.
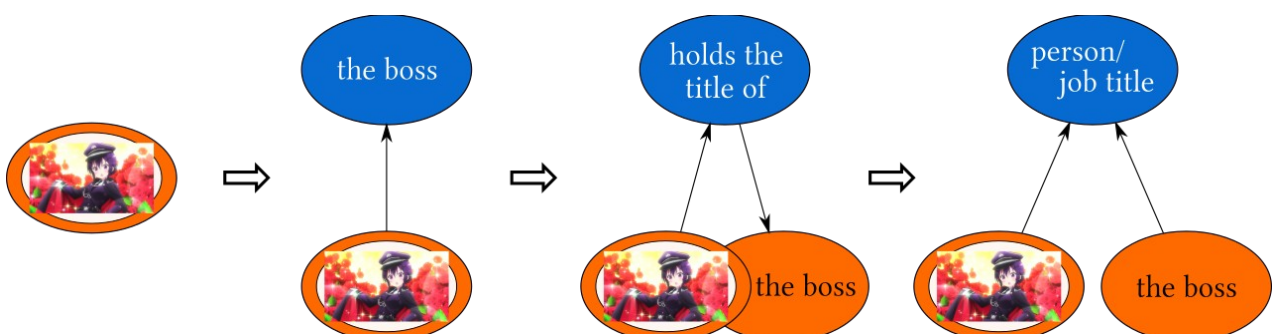
# Using Distinct Qualities to Describe Unfamiliar Things

Another reason to treat something as a <u>Distinct Quality</u> is when we want to learn more about it. For instance, let's say that everyone at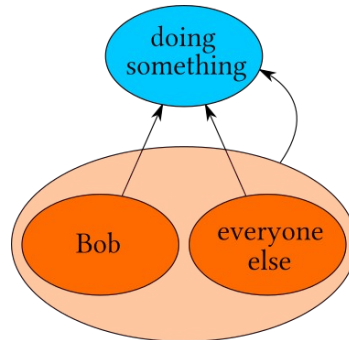 the party is "doing something", including Bob. This puts "Bob" and "everyone else" into the same "doing something" group.

But what if we want to know more about what Bob is doing? To determine this, we will first establish Bob's "doing something" **Quality** as something unique. That means **Reimagining** it from being an <u>Indistinct Quality</u> to being a seperate <u>Distinct Quality</u>.
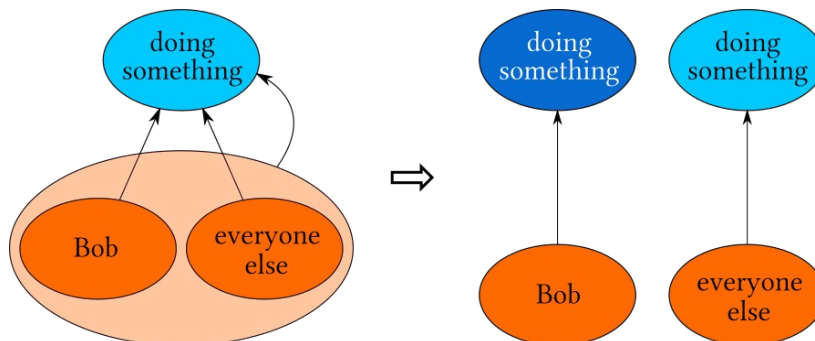
Then we can **Expand** out the "something" he is doing into a seperate **Distinct Referent**.
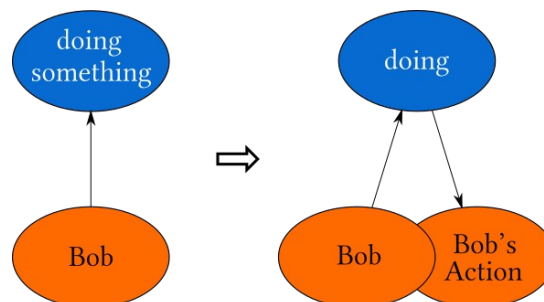
Now that we've separated the "Bob's Action" from Bob, we can attach **Qualities** to it.
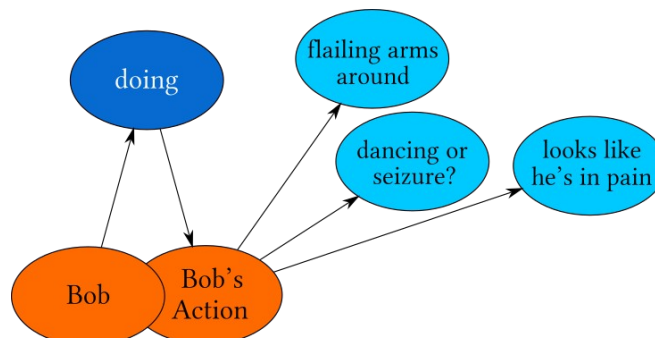
We can refer to this entire process **Quality Analysis**. **Analysis** is useful when we need to understand some **Quality** more deeply. Again, that includes (1) **Reimagining** an **Indistinct Quality** as a **Distinct Quality**, (2) **Expanding** the **Distinct Referent** from the **Distinct Quality**, and (3) seeing what **Qualities** we can attach to that **Referent**.

Upon closer inspection, Bob's movements seem more or less rhythmic; and the others watching, some of whom are much closer than we, don't appear to be panicking. This suggests Bob is indeed dancing, and not experiencing some kind of medical emergency.
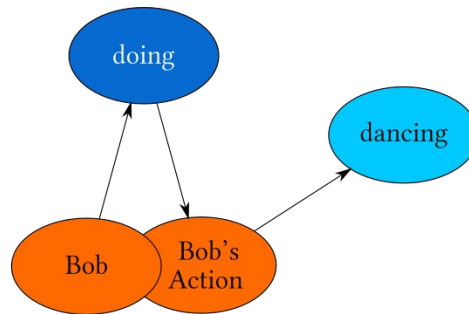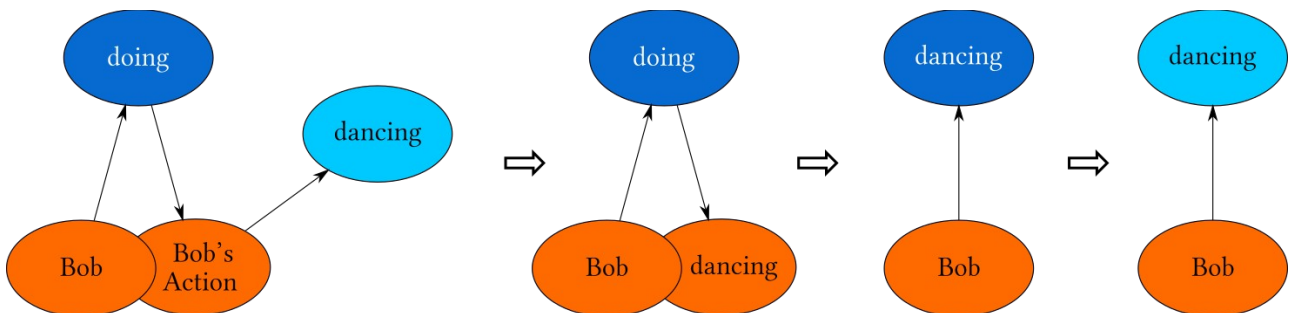


This step of using clues to determine a **Quality** can be called **Logical Deduction**. We will describe this process more in Lessons 6 and 7, so don't worry too much about it for now.

We can now take the "dancing" **Distinct Referent**, and the **Distinct Quality** that connects it to Bob, and **Reduce/Reimagine** them as a single **Indistinct Quality**, which attaches to Bob directly.



These final two steps (**Reducing** to a single **Distinct Quality** and **Reimagining** it as an **Indistinct Quality**), can be called **Classifying**, since we are describing Bob's action by simply putting it, and by extension Bob, into the "dancing" group. (Actually, any time we assign an **Indistinct Quality** to something, we are **Classifying** it.) **Classifying** can be considered the opposite of **Analysis**.

So, we started with a *less* descriptive **Indistinct Quality**, and ended up with a *more* descriptive one. This moved Bob from the larger and less relevant "doing something" group to the smaller and more relevant "dancing" group. We did this in three steps: (1) **Analysis**, (2) **Deduction**, and (3) **Classifying**. We can refer to this entire three-step process as **Reclassifying**, since we are starting with something that is already "classified" (as doing something), and ending by giving it a new "classification" (dancing).

So is "dancing" a good enough description for our purposes? Or do we need to know more about it? If it's good enough, we can leave Bob with the **Indistinct Quality** of "dancing", putting him into the "dancing" group. If we want to know more, we can **Analyze** Bob's "dancing", and look for more things we can say about it.

I sometimes like to say that a **Referent** is something we are trying to understand, while a **Quality** is our way of understanding it. **Distinct Qualities**, however, are a mix of both. We use them to better understand the **Referents** they attach to, but we also treat them as things that can themselves be endlessly analyzed.

# ~~~ Review ~~~

Today we learned the following terms:

**Relationship Referent** ~ A **Referent** that represents the relationship between two or more **Related Referents**. Connects to **Related Referents** using **Shared Qualities**.

**Related Referents** ~ Two or more **Referents** that have some relationship, which is represented by a **Relationship Referent**. **Related Referents** can be connected directly using a **Distinct Quality**.

**Shared Quality** ~ A common **Quality** that is shared between a **Relationship Referent**, and at least one of the **Related Referents**.

**Distinct Quality** ~ A **Quality** that represents the relationship between two or more other **Referents**, called **Related Referents**. **Distinct Qualities** are actually an **Absorption** of a **Relationship Referent** and its **Shared Qualities**.

**Bilateral Distinct Quality** ~ A **Distinct Quality** that applies equally to both (or all) **Related Referents**, whether or not their relationship is actually equal. (For example, "a sibling relationship" and "a predator/prey relationship" are both represented **Bilaterally**, even though "predator/prey" is not an equal relationship.)

**Unilateral Distinct Quality** ~ A **Distinct Quality** that **Relates** two or more **Referents** in an unequal way. (I.e. Foxes **prey on** rabbits, but rabbits do not prey on foxes.) This **Quality** is applied to one **Referent**, and takes the other **Referent** as a **Quality**.

**Subject Referent** ~ The **Referent** that takes a **Unilateral Distinct Quality** as a **Quality**.

**Object Referent** ~ The **Referent** that acts as a **Quality** of a **Unilateral Distinct Quality**.

**Relating Referents** (aka **Relating**) ~ A type of **Absorption** where a **Relationship Referent** and its **Shared Qualities** are condensed into a single **Idea**.

**Reimagining a Quality** (aka **Reimagining**) ~ Thinking of an **Indistinct Quality** as a **Distinct Quality**, or vice-versa.

**Quality Analysis** (aka **Analysis**) ~ The act of **Reimagining** an **Indistinct Quality** as a **Distinct Quality**, **Expanding** the **Distinct Quality** into an **Distinct Quality** and **Distinct Referent**, and then seeing what **Qualities** we can attach to that **Referent**. This is done when we want to learn more about some **Quality**. **Analysis** is the opposite of **Classifying**.

**Logical Deduction** (aka **Deduction**) ~ Using two or more believed **Thoughts** to arrive at a **Logical Conclusion**, which is another **Thought**. (We will further explore this process in Lessons 6 and 7.)

**Classifying** ~ The act of **Reducing** and/or **Reimagining** a **Distinct Quality**, any **Object Referent**, and any other relevant **Qualities** of that **Object Referent** into a single **Indistinct Quality**. (Actually, any time we assign an **Indistinct Quality** to something, we are **Classifying** it.) **Classifying** is the opposite of **Analysis**.

**Reclassifying** ~ The three-step process of **Analysis**, **Deduction**, and **Classifying**. This is done when we want to describe some **Referent** in a more precise or relevant way.

In addition, we ran into the terms: **Direct Object** and **Indirect Object**. We will further explore these terms in a later lesson, as well as the term **Logical Deduction**.

<center>~~~~~~~</center>

In this lesson, we learned how to show relationships between different **Referents**, using **Distinct Qualities**. We learned that a **Distinct Quality** is a tool we can use to take a **Referent** and express it as a **Quality**.

Then we looked at three common uses for **Distinct Qualities**. They included: (1) connecting **Subject Referents** to **Object Referents**, ala "SVO", (2) expressing **Qualities** that we consider unique, like a person's face, and (3) analyzing unfamiliar **Qualities** so we can learn more about them.

In the next lesson, we will learn about how **Qualities** are defined.