Figure 1: We tend to see what we expect to see.

Directions: Look at the figures below and write down what you see.

![Figure 1](image-url)
Figure 2: Mind-sets tend to be quick to form but are resistant to change.

Directions: If you are sitting on the left side of the classroom, scan this next image from left to right starting at the top left.

If you are sitting on the right side of the classroom, scan it from right to left starting at the bottom right.

Figure 2

Impressions resist change.
What we see determines or influences our interpretation.

Directions: Look at the figure below and write down what you see.

It is difficult to look at the same information from different perspectives.
Chapter Two, for me, naturally leads to a discussion/consideration of perception and how it is we come to know the world. In the history of western philosophy, most traditions follow one of two approaches: empiricism or rationalism. If you are a strict rationalist, you think that what we perceive (the information we take in through the senses) is illusion, and it is only through reason we are able to come to a true understanding of the world.

If you are an empiricist, your knowledge of the world is the result of what you take in through your senses. Reason is important in making sense of the perceived world, but ultimately the information we take in through the senses delivers the truth.

Plato was a rationalist. Aristotle was an empiricist. Descartes was a rationalist; Hume was an empiricist. Modern science is empirical in nature. We gather observations and then build conclusion or generalizations that explain these observations. But we begin with observation.

This leads to a number of interesting questions. For instance, can we trust our senses? If our unique human bodies each experience the world differently, then how can we ever come to an agreement about the truths that we derive from experience/perception? Or as in Chapter 2, knowing that our perceptions have a great influence on how we understand or know the world and the faulty nature of perception, how can we rely on them to know the world? And can the way in which we perceive the world actually prevent us from seeing what is actually there?

In an application that we will do soon, you will read about how our early experiences so influence us that they can even prevent us from taking in new information which is the foundation of all learning. I’ll be very interested to know what you think after you read this application. So get ready to share.