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Reading Questions for January 20

These questions cover two readings, one some excerpts from Berkeley's *Treatise of the Principles of Human Nature* and the other a chapter from Bertrand Russell's *The Basic Writings of Bertrand Russell*. The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

Background:

At this point, we are examining two different kinds of monism, which is (roughly) the view that there is only one fundamental kinds or category. Berkeley argues for idealism, i.e. the view that the only fundamental kind or category is mental. Russell argues for neutral monism, i.e. the view that the fundamental kind or category is neither exclusively mental nor material. These two authors are both rather difficult to interpret, so don't worry if you find what they say somewhat opaque.

Questions:

1. (*) What is the argument Berkeley presents in favor of idealism in Paragraph 4 of the main text (i.e. the one starting "It is indeed an opinion strangely ...") Is it sound? Why?
2. (*) What is the argument Berkeley presents in favor of idealism in Paragraph 22 of the main text (i.e. the one starting "I am afraid I have given cause ...") Is it sound? Why?
3. (*) In the first couple of pages of the chapter, Russell hints at some reasons for accepting his neutral monism. What considerations does he offer and are they compelling? Why?