

Daniel Immerman
Phil Mind

Reading Questions for January 25

These questions cover two readings. One is by Peter C. Brown, Henry L. Roediger III, and Mark A. McDaniel, and is an excerpt from a book called *Make It Stick*. The other is an article by Carl G. Hempel called “The Logical Analysis of Psychology.” The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read the second more than once to get the answers.

Background:

At times we’re going to look at some tips about how to improve some skill we’re practicing in this class. For today, the tips will be about remembering information you’ve learned. After we discuss these, we’ll look at an article by Carl G. Hempel that defends a form of behaviorism.

Questions:

1. I’ve given you a book chapter that talks about how to retain information. Here are some questions to think about when reading it: What tips that you read do you think are most important? Which ones were most surprising? Are there any that you disagree with?
2. (*) In section II (page 165) Hempel offers one way to think about the relationship between psychology and physics. Then in sections III and IV (pages 166-8) he offers his preferred way. What are the key differences between the two ways and what are the attractions of each? Which (if either) do you think is right and why?
3. (*) In section V (pages 168-70) Hempel considers some objections to his view and offers some replies. What are the objections? What are the replies? Are they plausible?
4. (*) In section VI (page 170) Hempel distinguishes between logical behaviorism and psychological behaviorism. What are the key differences? Which (if either) do you think is more plausible and why?